

DH



DECCAN HERALD

The Power of Good



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World

'Trilateral talks with Russia, US in UAE'

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SC to examine curative plea of Red Fort attack convict

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Supreme Court on Thursday agreed to examine a curative petition filed by Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) terrorist Mohammad Arif, who has questioned the death penalty awarded to him in the 2000 Red Fort attack case that claimed the lives of three Army jawans.

A bench comprising Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Justices Vikram Nath and JK Maheshwari considered the submissions made by counsel for the convict, who relied on subsequent Supreme Court judgments delivered after Arif's appeal and review petition had been dismissed.

The court issued notice to the Delhi government and decided to consider the plea.

A curative petition is the last legal remedy available to a litigant to challenge a verdict that has already been upheld twice by the apex court.

Arif was awarded the death sentence by a trial court in October 2005. The Delhi High Court upheld the verdict in September 2007, and the Supreme Court affirmed the death sentence in August 2011.

On the night of December 22, 2000, some intruders had entered the area where the unit of 7 Rajputana Rifles was stationed inside Red Fort and opened fire.

Centre sets up panel to probe student suicides at IIT-Kanpur

NEW DELHI, PTI: The government on Thursday set up a three-member committee to review cases of student suicides at IIT-Kanpur and recommend measures to prevent such incidents and to enhance mental health and mental well-being support.

The three-member committee will be headed by Anil Sahasrabudhhe, chairman, National Educational Technology Forum (NETF), psychiatrist Jitendra Nagpal and joint secretary (higher education).

The three-member panel has been asked to submit its report within 15 days.

Two students have died by suicide at IIT-Kanpur within the past month, prompting the government to set up the committee.

Supreme Court allows puja & namaz at disputed Bhojshala site

Urges both communities to maintain mutual respect

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Supreme Court on Thursday allowed Hindu prayers from sunrise to sunset on Basant Panchami on January 23 at the disputed Bhojshala-Kamal Maula mosque in Madhya Pradesh's Dhar district.

At the same time, the court allowed Muslims to offer namaz between 1 pm and 3 pm on the same day, urging both communities to maintain mutual respect, tolerance and cooperation with the local administration.

A bench comprising Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and

Justices Joymalya Bagchi and Vipul M Pancholi directed the district administration to ensure that no untoward incident occurs during the occasion.

The court further ordered that a list of persons from the Muslim community intending to offer namaz be submitted to the district administration.

Hindu and Muslim groups had approached the apex court seeking permission to conduct religious activities at the Bhojshala complex on Friday, when Saraswati Puja will be celebrated on the occasion of Basant Panchami and the weekly Friday namaz is scheduled to be offered.

Senior Advocate Salman



Security personnel stand guard outside Bhojshala/Kamal Maula Mosque complex in Dhar. PTI FILE

Khurshid, appearing for the petitioner, submitted that Basant Panchami—which has coincided with Fridays in recent years—would be observed from sunrise to sunset with pujas and havans at the site.

Counsel for the mosque stated that the Muslim community intended to offer namaz between 1 pm and 3 pm, after which the premises would be vacated. Discussions were held on whether namaz could

be shifted to after 5 pm, but the mosque counsel clarified that Juma namaz could not be rescheduled, although other prayers could be adjusted.

The court emphasised the need for mutual respect and cooperation between the communities and the administration.

It also reiterated its April 1, 2024, order that no physical excavation should be carried out and no action taken on the

THE BHOJSHALA CONTROVERSY

■ Bhojshala is an ASI-protected 11th-century monument

■ Hindus consider it to be a temple dedicated to Goddess Saraswati

■ The Muslim community calls it the Kamal Maula mosque

■ Under an ASI arrangement in 2003, Hindus perform puja on the premises on Tuesdays, while Muslims offer namaz on Fridays

survey's findings until the high court decides the matter.

The bench directed that the pending writ petition before the HC be heard by a division bench, preferably comprising one of the senior-most judges, within two weeks.

Should end practice of Guv's address: TN CM

CHENNAI, DHNS: After Karnataka Governor Tawar Chand Gehlot walked out of the Assembly without reading the customary address, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin on Thursday reiterated that the only solution now was to end the practice of commencing the first annual Assembly session with the Governor's address.



MK Stalin

"First Tamil Nadu. Then Kerala. Now Karnataka. The pattern is clear and deliberate. Governors are refusing to read the speech prepared by state governments and behaving like party agents," Stalin said.

On Tuesday, Tamil Nadu Governor R N Ravi walked out of the House without reading the speech for the third time in a row.

"The DMK will consult like-minded Opposition parties across India and pursue a Constitutional amendment in the very next Parliamentary session to abolish this obsolete and irrelevant practice," he said.

Congress urges MGNREGA workers to unite like farmers against new Act

Rahul Gandhi compares move to 'black' farm laws

SHEMIN JOY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Congress on Thursday urged workers to take a cue from farmers to stand united for the rollback of the VB-G RAM G Act, with Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi claiming that the Modi government's objectives in repealing MGNREGA are the same as they were in bringing the three "black" farm laws.

Party chief Mallikarjun Kharge alleged that the repeal of MGNREGA was an "attempt to remove" Mahatma Gandhi from public memory and asserted that his party will strongly raise the issue during the Parliament's upcoming Budget session. Both the leaders were addressing the National MGNREGA Workers' Convention organised by the 'Rachnatmak Congress'.



Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi and Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge during the National MGNREGA Workers' Convention organised by the Rachnatmak Congress, in New Delhi, on Thursday. PTI

Emphasising that the concept of MGNREGA was to give rights to the poor, Rahul said anyone who needs work should be able to demand it and receive work with dignity and that this scheme would be implemented through the Panchayati Raj system, in which there was the voice of the people and workers.

"Now Modi-ji and the BJP want to destroy that concept.

A few years ago, they attacked farmers and brought in black laws. But the farmers stopped them. I remember that in Parliament and on the streets, farmers put pressure... and those laws were repealed. The same concept that they tried to impose on farmers, they are now trying to impose on workers," he said.

Recalling the farmers' protest that led to the repeal of

farm laws, he said 'MGNREGA Bachao Sangram' is a "big opportunity" for the poor people who believe in the Constitution and the idea of India and that "if they stand together, Modi-ji will back off and MGNREGA would be reinstated".

"But let me say one more thing — if there is one weakness, it is the lack of unity. Poor people have not stood together so far; now they will have to. This is a very big opportunity," Rahul said.

Claiming that the Modi government is working to end MGNREGA so that the oppressed and downtrodden people of the country can be turned into "bonded labourers", Kharge said the Congress would keep fighting until the government withdraws the new Act and restores MGNREGA.

At the event attended by Congress general secretaries Jairam Ramesh and KC Venugopal and Rachnatmak Congress Chairperson Sandeep Dikshit, among others, Kharge said, "This is the first time any party has dared to remove Mahatma Gandhi's name from a scheme named after him. The nation will not tolerate this."

Census 2027: Phase I has 33 questions, including internet access, main cereal

NEW DELHI, DHNS

From the availability of bathing facilities to access to internet and the number of married couples living in a house, the government on Thursday notified 33 questions to be asked during the first phase of the Census 2027 — houselisting and housing enumeration — that starts on April 1.

The questionnaire in 2011 had 29 questions during phase I, while the number has increased to 33 this time, with some questions being split.

The notable inclusion is to ascertain internet access, as well as the main cereal consumed by the household. However, the question of availing banking facilities has been omitted.

The houselisting exercise will also try to ascertain whether citizens have access to smartphones, while also

COUNTING DOWN

■ Phase I – houselisting and housing enumeration – to take place during a 30-day period specified by each state and UT between April 1 and September 30

■ Phase II – population enumeration – will be held in February next year

■ Option for self-enumeration in 15-day period just before start of phase I

■ Other questions pertain to house, head of household, access to necessities, and types of vehicles owned

asking about the kind of mobile phones people use.

The first phase will take place during a 30-day period specified by each state and Union Territory (UT) between April 1 and September 30, while the phase II — population enumeration — will be held in February next year.

There will also be an option for self-enumeration to be conducted in a 15-day period just before the start of houselisting operations.

While the notification of questionnaires of phase I has been issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner said the questionnaire for phase II will be notified in due course.

The notification said the

ducted in a 15-day period just before the start of houselisting operations.

While the notification of questionnaires of phase I has been issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner said the questionnaire for phase II will be notified in due course.

The notification said the

Manipur: Meitei man visiting Kuki wife gunned down

SUMIR KARMAKAR
GUWAHATI, DHNS

A 38-year-old Meitei man was gunned down by suspected Kuki armed persons on Wednesday in Manipur's Kuki-dominated Churachandpur district, where he had gone to meet his Kuki wife.

A video that surfaced on social media showed the victim, Mayanglabam Rishikanta, pleading with folded hands before two shots were fired from the opposite side. The assailants were not seen in the video.

The one-minute 12-second video carried a text that read, "no peace, no popular government." The message referred to efforts by the Meitei MLAs to form a government in Manipur, which has remained under President's Rule since February 13 last year.

Gaurav Dogra, SP, Churachandpur, told *DH* that Rishikanta was a resident of Kakching Khunou Uchan Makhong Leikai area in Meitei-dominated Kakching district and was in Churachandpur since December 19 to meet his Kuki wife.

Police at Churachandpur got information at around

10.30 pm on Wednesday that Rishikanta was abducted by unknown persons on Tuesday and was killed at T Natjang village.

"The body was retrieved from the area and has been kept at the district morgue. A suo motu FIR has been registered at Churachandpur police station, and efforts are on to nab the miscreants," Dogra said.

Sources said Rishikanta worked in Nepal and had returned to his home last month. He visited Churachandpur after his wife took "permission" from the Kuki insurgent groups. Sources said he had even adopted a Kuki name, Mayanglabam, to visit his wife Chingnu Haokip.

United Kuki National Army, an armed Kuki group not in a ceasefire, was suspected to be behind the killing. Dogra, however, said they are yet to be certain about the group involved. However, the group later issued a statement on Thursday rejecting reports about its involvement in the killing.

Meanwhile, Manipur Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla said the case has been handed over to the NIA for a thorough probe, a Lok Bhavan statement said.

Ties key for interests of Global South: PM after speaking to Lula

NEW DELHI, PTI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke to Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva on Thursday and asserted that close cooperation was vital for advancing the shared interests of the Global South.

Modi received a call from the Brazilian president, and the two leaders underscored the importance of reformed multilateralism in addressing shared challenges, an official statement said.

Modi also said he was looking forward to welcoming the Brazilian president to India soon.

"Glad to speak with President Lula. We reviewed the strong momentum in the India-Brazil Strategic Partnership, which is poised to scale new heights in the year ahead," Modi posted on X.

"Our close cooperation is vital for advancing the shared interests of the Global South. I look forward to welcoming him to India soon," he added. The two leaders reaffirmed



Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva

Narendra Modi

their commitment to further strengthen the India-Brazil strategic partnership and take it to even greater heights in the year ahead, the statement said.

"The leaders also exchanged views on regional and global issues of mutual interest. They also underscored the importance of reformed multilateralism in addressing shared challenges," it said.

Recalling their meetings last year in Brasilia and South Africa, the two leaders noted with satisfaction the significant progress achieved across diverse areas of bilateral cooperation, including trade and investment, technology, defence, energy, health, agriculture, and people-to-people ties.

EC allots 'whistle' symbol for Vijay's TVK

CHENNAI, DHNS & PTI: The fledgling political party in Tamil Nadu led by actor Vijay was on Thursday allotted a common symbol, whistle, for its candidates to be fielded in the April-May Assembly elections.

In a communication to the Chief Electoral Officer, the Election Commission of India has informed that the application filed by TVK for allotment of a common symbol to its candidates in the Assembly elections has been accepted.

The order said actor Kamal Haasan's Makkal Needhi Maiam will be allotted another common symbol, torchlight, provided the parties field candidates in 5% of the total number of Assembly constituencies in Tamil Nadu.

The 50-year-old TVK founder said that with the allocation of the symbol, his party's first chapter of its successful journey has begun. "Whistle sound symbolises man's joyous cry, a great sound that people marching towards their ambition without rest make after reaching their target. More particularly, whistle stays in the hands of people's protectors (police). In that way, whistle can be termed as a symbol of protection," he said.

As soon as the common symbol was allotted to the party, TVK leaders distributed sweets to cadres at the headquarters, even as fans shared a song whistle podu from Vijay's movie, *GOAT*, on their social media handles.

NDA gains new allies in Kerala

ARJUN RAGHUNATH
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS

As the Assembly polls approach in Kerala, the BJP is on an expansion drive in the state.

On Thursday, the Twenty20 —led by KiteX Group managing director Sabu Jacob — and former MLA A V Thamarakshan joined the NDA. BJP state president Rajeev Chandrasekhar welcomed them.

The NDA's expansion comes a day before Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Thiruvananthapuram to celebrate the BJP's maiden victory in the city corporation and to launch the party's campaign for the Assembly elections.

The Twenty20, which has positioned itself as an alternative to the Congress-led United Democratic Front (UDF) and the CPM-led Left Democratic Front (LDF), had joined hands with the AAP at a major event attended by Arvind Kejriwal in

EXPANSION SPREE

■ Ahead of Modi's visit, NDA strengthens base in Kerala

■ Twenty20 and former MLA Thamarakshan join NDA

■ Twenty20 says it sees NDA as the front to advance Kerala's development and end LDF-UDF dominance

Kochi in 2022. The two parties announced the formation of the People's Welfare Alliance, but the alliance was short-lived.

In the recent local body elections, the UDF and LDF even joined forces against the Twenty20. As a result, the Twenty20 secured a majority only in the Kizhakambalam and Aikaranadu panchayats in Kochi, while it lost its majority in Kun-nathunadu and Muzhuvanoor in the district. It performed

relatively well in the Thiruvaniyoor panchayat. However, it failed to win any seats despite contesting 56 wards in the Kochi Corporation.

Jacob told reporters that the Twenty20 saw the NDA as the front capable of advancing Kerala's development and ending the LDF-UDF dominance in the state. He said even though the UDF and the LDF allied with several fringe outfits in the local-body elections, the impact was minimal.

"It was a well-thought-out decision to join the NDA, as we could not bring about change in Kerala alone. The LDF and the UDF were working against the state's interests. The KiteX Group was even forced to drop major investment plans in Kerala and shift them to Telangana," he said.

Meanwhile, a faction of the Janadhipathya Samrakshana Samithi (JSS) led by former MLA Thamarakshan joined the NDA.

SIT summons KTR in phone-tapping case

HYDERABAD, DHNS: The special investigation team (SIT) probing the alleged phone-tapping during the previous BRS regime in Telangana has issued a notice to the party's working president KT Rama Rao to appear before it here on Friday for examination.

The SIT questioned Senior BRS leader and MLA T Harish Rao for almost seven

hours on Tuesday in connection with the case. Former Telangana intelligence chief T Prabhakar Rao, the prime accused in the case, was earlier questioned by the SIT.

Responding to the notice, KTR on Thursday alleged that the investigation was nothing but a diversionary tactic meant to shield administrative failures and protect CM Revanth Reddy's position.

The Central government has tightened the Motor Vehicles Rules: Drivers who commit five or more traffic violations within a year may now face suspension of their driving licence.

As per the latest amendment to the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, the competent authority — such as Regional Transport Offices (RTOs) — will decide the duration of the

suspension. However, rules say the licensing authority must allow the licence-holder to be heard before ordering the suspension of their driving licence.

The Union Ministry of Road Transport and Highways issued a notification on Wednesday, amending the Motor Vehicles Rules. The rules took effect on January 20 this year.

However, offences committed on or after January 1, 2026, would count. The rules, however, clarified that offences from previous years would

not be counted. Ministry officials said the new rules have been introduced to deter habitual offenders.

Earlier, disciplinary action for suspension of a driving licence required 24 notified traffic offences, such as overloading, reckless driving, and assault on passengers. Now, even minor violations — like not wearing a helmet, jumping a red signal, or not wearing a seatbelt — could contribute towards the five-offence threshold. The ministry notification also provides details on issuing and

managing traffic challans.

The new rules state that any police officer in uniform or any other officer authorised by the state government may issue a challan, and e-challans can be generated automatically. The violator can pay the challan or contest it within 45 days. Failure to contest within 45 days will be treated as deemed acceptance by the offender. "A challan deemed to have been accepted shall be paid... within the next 30 days," the notification added.

CURBING OFFENDERS

Lose your driving licence after 5 traffic offences in a year

AJITH ATHRADY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

DH



DECCAN HERALD

The Power of Good

Just want to relax and spend time with my dogs: Sunita Williams

Page 9



India skips Trump's Board of Peace signing meet

19 countries, including Pakistan, attend ceremony at Davos



Donald Trump

ANIRBAN BHAUMIKNEW DELHI, DHNS

PEACE PLANK

- Trump positioning Board of Peace as global peace-making platform, beginning with the Gaza Strip
- India involved in peace initiatives only under the UN mandate
- New Delhi also fears Trump may some day try to use it for seeking a resolution to the India-Pakistan conflict over Kashmir

- Key points Guv didn't want to read
- 1Karnataka facing a suppressive economic, policy situation

2VB-G RAM (G) Act protects corporate capitalist interests

3Labourers being placed under contractors' control

4VB-G RAM (G) Act facilitates large-scale corruption

Governor reads only 3 lines, leaves session

Gehlot walks out amid Cong MLAs' sloganeering; BJP attacks govt

BENGALURU, DHNS

Pandemonium erupted during the joint session of the Karnataka legislature on Thursday after Governor Thaaawarchand Gehlot read merely three lines from the 122 paragraphs of the customary speech prepared by the government and left the Assembly in a haste.

The incident marks the third instance this week where Governors (Kerala, Tamil Nadu and now Karnataka) clashed with state governments over addressing the legislature.

Gehlot began by reading the first two lines of the speech: "I extend a warm welcome to all of you to the joint session of the state legislature. I am extremely pleased to address this august House."

He then moved to the very last line of paragraph 122, saying: "Overall, my government is firmly committed to doubling the pace of the state's economic, social and physical development. Jai Hind — Jai Karnataka."

As the Governor began to walk out



Governor Thawarchand Gehlot leaves without delivering the full address to the joint session at the Vidhana Soudha, in Bengaluru, on Thursday. DH PHOTO/B K JANARDHAN

of the Assembly hall, Congress legislators booed him, shouting "shame, shame". Gehlot was escorted out by marshals.

Law Minister HK Patil slammed Gehlot for leaving the hall before the national anthem was played. While the Governor's relation with the government has soured for over a year, this is the first time he hasn't read the full speech drafted by the Cabinet.

► Governor, Page 6
Governors and their contentious conduct, Edit Page 8

The Governor has violated the Constitution. After due discussion, a decision will be taken on approaching the Supreme Court

Siddaramaiah
Chief Minister

Congress behaved in a manner unbecoming of a democratic House, resorting to unruly, street-level conduct, blatantly disrespecting the Constitution

RASHOKA
Leader of the Opposition

DH

DECIPHERS

What law says about Guv's powers

P5

Nod for 5-yr age relaxation in jobs

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Karnataka Cabinet on Thursday decided to provide a five-year relaxation in age limit to all candidates applying for government jobs across all categories till December 31, 2027, via direct recruitment.

The decision has been taken considering the freeze in recruitments due to issues related to internal reservation for Scheduled Castes and to help the aspirants who have lost opportunities due to the delay in recruitments.

With the latest decision, if the current upper age limit is 35 years to apply for a government job, then it will be revised to 40. This will be applicable to all categories.

Other key Cabinet decisions

Full-fledged extension of AI-powered KAAMS to all teaching and non-teaching staff under school education dept

Administrative approval to establish smart classrooms in 3,862 primary, high schools, PU colleges and KGBVs

Setting up of Centre for Applied AI for tech solutions through KEONICS in Bengaluru at a cost of Rs 20 cr

₹145 cr for nutrition kits for 40,046 ST families for 12 months

In September, the government had provided a three-year relaxation in age limit.

Recruitments for government jobs have been paused since October 2024 to finalise internal reservation for the SCs, following the Supreme Court's August 2024 judgment allowing the states to implement sub-classification of SCs.

► Age relaxation, Page 6

Officials apprehensive

Officials say unless there is a G.O. specifying internal quota, they can't proceed with hiring. The KEA alone has received thousands of requests for recruitment tests to various departments.

10 Army soldiers die after vehicle falls into gorge in J&K

ZULFIKAR MAJID
SRINAGAR, DHNS

Ten Army soldiers lost their lives and 11 others were injured after a military vehicle plunged into a deep gorge in the hilly Doda district of Jammu and Kashmir on Thursday, officials said.

The bulletproof vehicle, a Casspir, was heading for an operation when it veered off the Baderwah-Chamba interstate road at Khanni Top and plunged into the gorge.

The injured personnel have been shifted to hospitals for specialised treatment.

Rescue teams from the Army, police and local administration rushed to the spot and carried out evacuation operations in the difficult terrain, reports said.

Officials said an inquiry has been ordered to ascertain the exact cause of the accident, though preliminary indications point to treacherous road conditions.

► Soldiers, Page 6

Top Maoist among 16 killed in J'khand

CHAIBASA (JHARKHAND), PTI: Sixteen Maoists, including a top leader who was carrying a bounty of Rs 2.35 crore on his head, were killed in a gunfight with security forces in Jharkhand's West Singhbhum district on Thursday, police said.

Around 1,500 personnel of CRPF's CoBRA unit are engaged in the operation in Kumdi, they said.

Details on Page 10

Bangladesh refuses to come to India for T20 World Cup

DHAKA, PTI: A defiant Bangladesh on Thursday refused to send its national cricket team for next month's T20 World Cup in India after the ICC rejected its demand for a change of venue, effectively paving the way for Scotland to take the country's place.

Bangladesh had been served an ultimatum by the world body on Wednesday to either agree to travel to India or risk being replaced as there was no credible threat to the safety of their players, officials

or fans there.

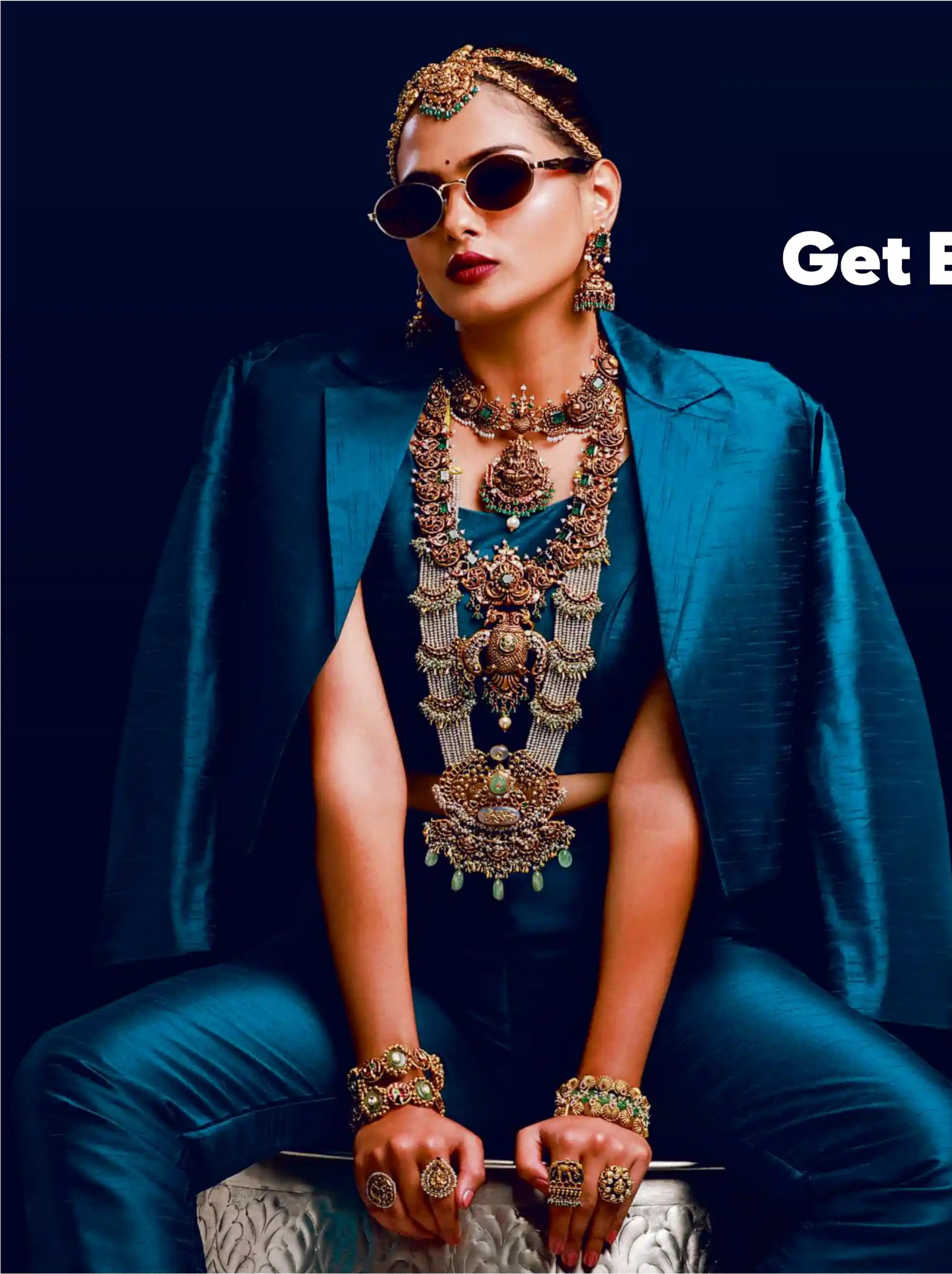
The country was given time till Thursday to make its decision.

Scotland is next in line based on team rankings for the tournament starting February 7.

However, taking a headline position, Bangladesh's sports advisor Asif Nazrul, after a meeting with national team players, announced that the ICC's assessment was not acceptable to them.

► Bangladesh, Page 6

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Police said the incidents highlighted the effectiveness of patrol teams and emergency response systems.

The woman, in India on a tourist visa since November, was returning home at the time.

When Usha intervened, the suspects allegedly touched her inappropriately, outraged her modesty and issued

Police registered an FIR and are investigating the extent of the fraud and the involvement of others.

BENGALURU, DHNS: Customs officials at the Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) arrested a passenger arriving from São Paulo, Brazil, after seizing cocaine worth Rs 38.6 crore hidden inside Portuguese-language children's comic books.

The passenger, whose identity was not disclosed, was allegedly smuggling 7.72 kg of cocaine. He was intercepted at Terminal 2 on January 21 and arrested under the NDPS Act, 1985.

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PARAKRAM DIWAS

Paying homage to
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a beacon of courage and patriotism

PARAKRAM DIWAS

129th

Birth Anniversary Celebration of
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Inauguration of Three Day Celebration

23 January 2026 | 4:00 pm

Netaji Stadium, Sri Vijaya Puram

Key highlights of the Parakram Diwas from 23-25 January, 2026

- Cultural Performances by Renowned Artists
- Drone Show
- Exhibition on Life & Legacy of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose
- AR/VR Show on Netaji

Subhas Chandra Bose was such a great man who was beyond the challenge of position and resources. His acceptance was such that the whole world considered him a leader. It is our effort that Netaji's energy should guide the country today.

Shri Narendra Modi
Prime Minister

Chief Guest

Admiral D. K. Joshi

PVSM, AVSM, YSM, NM, VSM (Retd.)
The Lieutenant Governor,
Andaman & Nicobar Islands

Celebrations Happening Across The Country at Multiple Locations Connected to The Life of Netaji

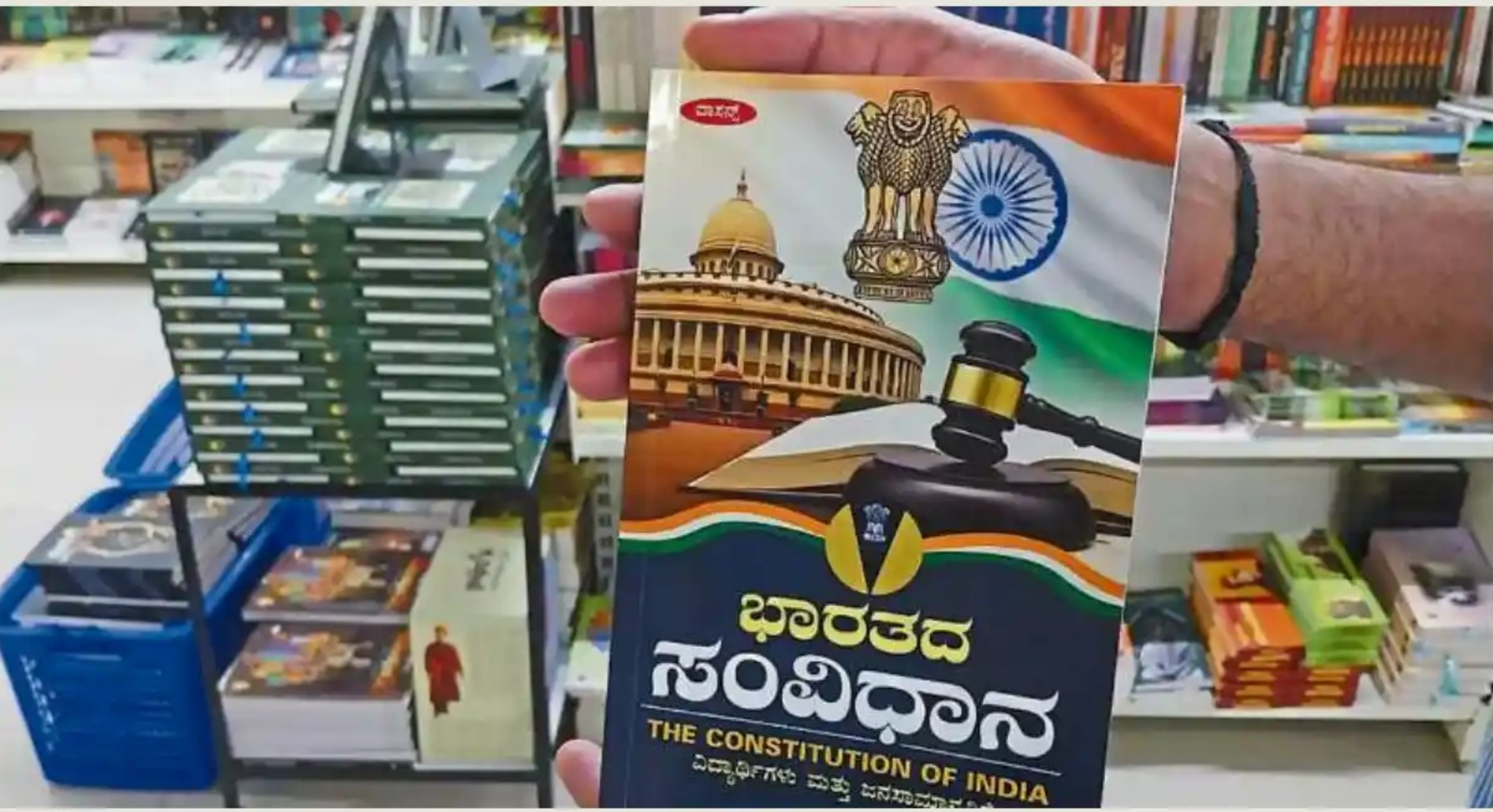
- Cuttack, Odisha
- Kolkata, West Bengal
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- Meerut, Uttar Pradesh
- Kohima, Nagaland
- Gomoh, Jharkhand
- Dalhousie, Himachal Pradesh
- Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh
- Ramgarh, Jharkhand
- Red Fort, Delhi
- Moirang, Manipur
- Murshidabad, West Bengal
- Haripura, Gujarat

You are all Cordially Invited

CBC 09112/13/0001/2526

Constitution-related books in demand ahead of R-Day

English and Kannada titles on the Constitution of India, citizen rights, and federalism gain ground



Books like 'Samvidhana Odhu' and 'Bharatha Samvidhana' have seen a strong demand across multiple outlets of Sapna Book House.

TINI SARA ANIEN
TEAM METROLIFE

A few bookshops in Bengaluru have reported a spike in demand for books on the Indian Constitution, people's rights, and federalism this month. While some are buying these for research or personal reading, others are picking them up as gifts and prizes for Republic Day events.

R Doddegowda, general manager of the Kannada books and publication wing of Sapna Book House, says Kannada titles on the subject of the Constitution have seen strong sales. "Samvidhana Odhu" by Justice H N Nagamohan Das has seen over a 15% spike in sales in January," he says. Likewise, 'Bharatha Samvidhana' by Shantharaj D M is being picked up by

many, he adds. He notes that regular patrons are buying these in addition to a new stream of college students and young working professionals.

At Aakruti Pustaka on D V G Road, Basavanagudi, owner Guruprasad D N says lately, readers have been "looking for books that explain rights and democratic values". Books on the Constitution and related subjects generally sell more in January, he adds. "Over the past week, there has been a 25-30% increase in demand for titles such as 'Fraternity Constitutional Norm and Human Need', 'Liberty: The Indian Story', 'Secularism: How India Reshaped the Idea', 'We, the People, and Our Constitution', 'Dalits and the Indian Constitution', and 'Socialism and the Indian Constitution'," he explains. Pocket-sized editions of the 'Constitution of India' are also moving well, Guruprasad adds.

At Harivu Books in Basavanagudi too, books like "Bharathada Samvidhana" by Dr Umadevi, "Bharata Samvidhana Mattu Sarkara" by H D Vishwanath, and 'Bharatada Samvidhana' by K M Suresh have reported brisk sales. People in the 25-45 age-group are picking these up, says owner Ratheesha B R. He adds that guide-books on governance are also selling well, including 'Karnataka Civil Seva Niyamagalu' and 'Karnataka Bhoo Kandaya Adhiniyama', both by Yashpal Puliani. However, Krishna Gowda says Constitution-related books have been selling consistently at his bookstore, Bookworm on Church Street, for over six months. These include titles like 'Assembling India's Constitution', 'Nationalism' and 'Ambedkar's Preamble'. He attributes the renewed interest to "growing public conversations around the Constitution".



Lip lockup

A senior policeman has been suspended in the wake of a video of his intimate moments going viral. He was in full uniform when he was indulging in his raas leela, and that unthinkable affront to his profession has added to the furore. Police stations are not particularly known for lovey-dovey moments — no wonder everyone is outraged. If only he knew his limits and had stuck to the usual brutality, maybe it would have passed off as just another day, no?

EVENTS

Play on friendship

'Chitrakathi', a tale of two friends whose relationship changes because of a woman, will be performed on January 24, 10 am, at Sabha BLR, Kamaraj Road. Tickets online.

Solo dance

Pragnya Thamire will present a Kuchipudi solo titled 'Prastuthi' on January 27, 7.30 pm, at Medai — The Stage, Koramangala. Tickets online.

Play on arts

'Anavarata', an original production by Bangalore Players, will be staged on January 31, 7 pm, at Kalagrama, Mallathahalli. The play explores the emotions of artists. Tickets online.

Photos of Hampi

Award-winning photographer John Gollings is exhibiting his works on Hampi until January 27, 10 am onwards, at Gallery 1, Venkatappa Art Gallery, Kasturba Road.

Book launch

The launch of the book 'Chaos in a Coupe' by Divya Dugar will be held on January 25, 12.30 pm at Atta Galatta, Indiranagar. It captures the travel experiences of the writer with her partner Olivier, her child Marius, and their three dogs. For details, call 96325 10126.

Exhibition on women pioneers in music

Women who shaped early years of India's recording industry are the focus of an ongoing exhibition at the Indian Music Experience museum, J P Nagar. According to the exhibition note, many women from the devadasi and tawaif traditions were among the first to embrace the gramophone technology in the early 20th century. Other pioneering artistes in the field include Gauhar Jaan, Bangalore Nagarathnamma, Salem Godavari, Jaddan Bai, Coimbatore Thayi, Malka Jaan, and Dhanakoti Ammal. The exhibition is titled 'Her Voice. Her Story'.

On view until January 25, from 10 am onwards. For details, visit indianmusicexperience.org

Good life or extended life? Posts revive health debate

A young Bengalurean's experiment focuses on data-driven health tracking

BARKHA KUMARI
TEAM METROLIFE

A 23-year-old entrepreneur from Bengaluru recently went viral on X after declaring that he wants to be the "Bryan Johnson of India". In his post, he said he has spent Rs 7,000 on blood tests to establish baseline biomarkers, and invested in wearable devices to monitor sleep, strain, recovery, activity levels, and calorie intake daily to make data-driven lifestyle changes. This DIY practice is known as biohacking. Unlike Johnson, the American who reportedly spends millions to 'reverse' biological ageing, Punarv Dinakar wants to "live life to the fullest". He could not be reached for comment.

Dinakar's personal health experiment comes amid a growing fascination with defying ageing. Entrepreneur Deepinder Goyal's company is testing whether gravity affects ageing, using wearable sensors that track cerebral blood flow. Meanwhile, futurist Ray Kurzweil has predicted that advances in AI and nanotechnology could make biological immortality possible by 2030.

Dr Pretesh Kiran, associate professor of community health at St John's Medical College, says that such experiments lack evidence in the Indian setting. Doctors and scientists in the city, by contrast, are more focused on healthspan than lifespan, aiming to improve quality of life rather than merely extend it. Dr Ananya Das, a consultant in geriatric medicine at a private hospital, says that although advances in healthcare have increased life expectancy, quality of life has declined, "eroded by processed diets, excessive screen time, sedentary lifestyles, poor



Grama Hiriyara Kendra in Anekal taluk is an Anganwadi-style centre for the elderly, conceptualised by St John's Medical College to provide psychosocial support.

sleep, and deteriorating air and water quality".

Dr Dominic Benjamin, head of geriatric medicine at Bangalore Baptist Hospital, says longevity experiments by billionaires are far removed from everyday realities. "Many of my older patients ask why they are still alive and why I am treating them. Some ask for medicines to shorten their lives because they have lost meaning and purpose. Their children are not around. They chat with ChatGPT. They are lonely," he says. A study on loneliness has shown that a person who "drinks two scotches a day, eats junk food, and is obese" may be healthier than someone lonely, he adds.

Initiatives in the city

India's first ageing study, the Longitudinal Ageing Study in India, focuses on health, economic conditions, and social outcomes among older Indians. In contrast, in 2024, the Indian Institute of Science launched an initiative called 'Longevity India' to study ageing mechanisms specific to Indians at the molecular level. Its flagship project is the BHARAT (Biomarkers of Healthy Aging, Resilience, Adversity, and Transitions) Study. It aims to build a

national database of biological markers that track how Indians age. According to its convener Prof Deepak Saini, around 1,000 participants in Bengaluru and rural Karnataka have been sampled, and the exercise will likely expand to Mysuru and Delhi. They will also study the impact of space travel on the health of Indians, and develop a health and susceptibility score. "The score will indicate how frail or resilient a person is," he explains.

Another new research project is underway at St John's Medical College to define metrics of healthy ageing and assess its different stages. However, the Grama Hiriyara Kendra, an Anganwadi-style centre for the elderly conceptualised by the institute, has been operating in four villages of Anekal taluk in Bengaluru Urban district since 2015. Dr Kiran, coordinator of its Senior Citizen Health Service, highlights the impact of the psychosocial support these centres provide. "Many elderly visitors have shown improvement, including reduced medication doses, better social and family interactions, and greater self-confidence," he says. The Karnataka government's Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department, in associa-

WHAT DOES HEALTHY AGEING LOOK LIKE?

According to Dr Ananya Das, it is the ability to perform daily chores independently in one's 80s and beyond, despite chronic conditions such as hypertension or diabetes. Deepak Saini says how our bodies age primarily depends on one's genes and the environment one grows up in, including air quality, water, and exposure to infections. When both are favourable, ageing slows down.

TRAITS OF BLUE ZONES

These are regions where people commonly live beyond 80 years and remain healthy. These include Okinawa (Japan), Sardinia (Italy), Nicoya (Costa Rica), Ikaria (Greece), and Loma Linda (California). Common traits among these people include strong social ties, physical activity, stress management, largely plant-based diets, calorie restriction, moderate alcohol intake, and a sense of purpose.

tion with a few NGOs, has adopted this model in community libraries in select villages on a pilot basis.

Dr Ananya adds that her hospital plans to introduce DNA methylation screening for healthy adults to assess genetic risk for age-related conditions such as dementia and cancer. "It is at the centre of cutting-edge research today, and is said to have around 99% accuracy," she says. Dr Benjamin stresses that science is clear that adult vaccination is as important as childhood immunisation, but in India, it is neither mandatory nor affordable for many.

Activities to mark Republic Day

Philatelic exhibition

The #ReclaimConstitution project, founded by Vinay Kumar, will be hosting a philatelic exhibition, titled 'Makers of Our Constitution'. It will showcase rare postal stamps, covers, cancellations, and archival treasures, on January 26, 1 pm to 6 pm, at Sabha BLR, Kamaraj Road. A pocket edition of the 'Constitution of India' will be released by Justice Oka on the same day. To watch the book release, visit @ReclaimConstitution on YouTube.

Lalbagh Flower Show

Hosted by the horticulture department, the ongoing Lalbagh Flower Show is showcasing the life journey of author Poornachandra Tejaswi through floral displays. It features 95 varieties of flowers from different states, including 27 lakh flowers grown in Lalbagh itself. Visitors can also view 150 bird photographs and 250 entomological specimens. Open until January 26, 9 am to 6 pm. Tickets are priced between Rs 30 and Rs 100.



Virtual ride and run

Virtual Fitness Squad is organising the 'Republic Day — One Nation — One Run — One Ride' fitness event remotely. Participants can run in multiple categories (5 km to 42 km) or ride (26 km or 72 km) at a location of their choice. They should record and submit proof of the challenge they completed between January 26, 8 am and January 27, 8 pm. They will receive an e-certificate. Tickets online. For details, WhatsApp 83989 99880.

Craft workshop

Hobby Ghar, Seshadripuram, will host a Republic Day-themed art and craft workshop for children aged five and above on January 25, 11 am. The two-hour session will include activities such as decorating mini bento cakes and painting caps with tricolour motifs, and making eco-friendly leaf bowls. Tickets online.

Overnight concert of music, dance

A dusk-to-dawn classical music and dance concert will be held at the Indian Institute of Management Bangalore (IIMB) on the eve of Republic Day. Titled 'Yamini 2026', the event is an initiative of the Society for the Promotion of Indian Classical Music and Culture Amongst Youth (SPIC MACAY).

The concert will open with a jazz performance by Lars Möller. This will be followed by performances by Sikkil Gurucharan (Karnatik vocals), Umayalpuram K Sivaraman (mridangam), Shovana Narayan (kathak), Baha'ud'din Dagar (rudra veena), Kaleeshabi Mahaboob (nadaswaram), and Jayateerth Mevundi (Hindustani vocals).

According to Supriti, national advisor of SPIC MACAY, overnight concerts have been a tradition in Hindustani classical music for over 150 years, and such gatherings are held in cities like Jalandhar, Varanasi, and Kolkata. "Much like fasting or abstaining from something one enjoys during festivals, Yamini is about giving up sleep for a night for Indian classical music, an experience often associated with spiritual awakening," she says.

She adds that in the past, the concert has attracted audiences not only from Bengaluru but also from places like Tumakuru, Dharwad, Surathkal, Kalaburagi, and even Salem in Tamil Nadu.

From January 25, 7.30 pm to January 26, 6.30 am, at Open-Air-Theatre, IIMB, Bannerghatta Road. Open to all. Entry free. Register on iimb.ac.in

Bengaluru on his easel

A former techie has been taking to the streets, capturing the city's iconic landmarks

PUSHKAR V
TEAM METROLIFE

A 46-year-old artist is capturing the city's iconic buildings and locations in watercolour.

On a weekday, *Metrolife* spotted Nitin Singh at the busy M G Road-Brigade Road junction, as he brought the century-old building housing Cauvery Emporium to life on a 15x22 inch watercolour sheet, sitting on a tall easel. With crowds rushing past and automobiles honking away, he attempted to capture the essence of the spot on the cotton-based, cold-press paper.

A 2003 graduate of fine arts from Patna University, he moved to Bengaluru for work and painted almost every day of his career, despite working long hours. In 2025, he quit his IT designer job. "Typically, I try to paint

one location in a day and on the spot. I want to capture the environment and immerse myself in the essence of the place. That reflects in the painting," he said. Singh draws inspiration from impressionists like Claude Monet and Edgar Degas. He has an affinity for loose, fluid strokes and minimal detail, not cold realism. His painting of K R Market depicts the chaos of the spot — the vendors' shouts, the bold red and yellow strokes of the flowers, and the vegetable sellers' produce placed in front of the colonial arches. He takes 2-3 hours per piece.

Earlier the fear of public eyes on him working made him freeze but he overcame it by immersing himself fully and letting the chaos fuel the art.

He aims to paint 100 historical buildings of the city under his 'India on my easel' series. Next, he wants to paint the regular people who occupy these spaces. His work titled 'When we parted' heads to London's Royal Watercolour Society this year. The work, inspired by the Partition's train tragedies, is painted in fiery reds in the modern abstract art style.



Nitin Singh took two hours to complete a watercolour painting of the building that houses Cauvery Emporium on M G Road. DH PHOTO/PUSHKAR V

How to find help for homeless

Police should be the first point of contact

SHRADDHA A K
TEAM METROLIFE

Members of a temple trust in Rajajinagar recently tried to help a woman they believed was mentally unwell. A member told *Metrolife* that they called the jurisdictional police, who visited, spoke with the woman, and promised to return with female cops. "The woman used to behave erratically. Some people told us she used to sleep on the overbridge nearby, which is why we wanted to help her. But the police haven't contacted us since," he added. *Metrolife* spoke to experts on how to assist the homeless, abandoned, or mentally distressed.

Call the police

Saidulu Advavath, DCP of Whitefield, recommends calling helpline 112, after which police will arrive to assess the situation. They check whether the individual is from the locality or features in their missing persons reports. If there are no leads, the person is taken for a medical assessment, and a Medico-Legal Case (MLC) is filed. Following this, the individual may be moved to palliative care or a mental health centre. "In addition to seeking police intervention, you can also contact an NGO," he adds. Dr Rajesh, medical superintendent of C V Raman Hospital, Indiranagar, notes that patients brought in via the police are often ill or confused, and require extensive care.

NGO support

Once placed in palliative care or in a mental health centre, individuals are



Police advise calling 112 first and then contacting an NGO. DH PHOTO/PUSHKAR V

often supported by NGOs. Aaladamar, for example, collaborates with C V Raman Hospital to assist mentally disturbed patients. Aaladamar picks up people from the streets, and their centres have separate facilities for men and women. Imran Mohammad, manager of the Helping Hand Foundation, stresses that if someone sees an abandoned, homeless, or mentally disturbed person, the police should be notified first. "Caring for these individuals carries significant responsibility. If the person passes away, arranging last rites without proper documentation can be nearly impossible," he explains.

Night shelters

If the individual is healthy and does not require intensive medical care, police or NGOs take them to the nearest Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) night shelter or urban homeless shelter. These shelters provide food and beds. Bengaluru has 48 shelters managed by city corporations: 16 by the central corporation, seven each by the south and west, 12 by the north, and six by the east.

To locate the nearest shelter, contact your local GBA office or police station.

NGOS TO CALL

Some NGOs pick up homeless people directly after being informed, while others insist on filing a Medico-Legal Case first.

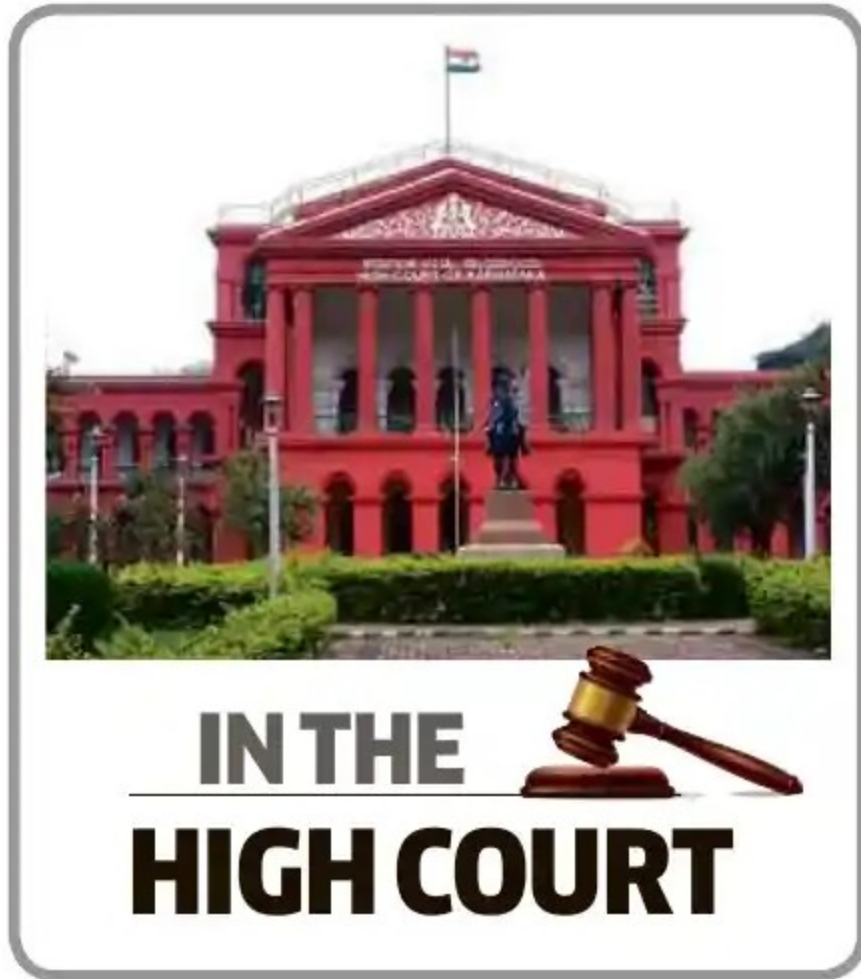
Sparsha Trust: 97407 55495
AiR Humanitarian Homes: 97395 44444
Aaladamar: 87922 54867
Loving Hearts Charity Organisation: 99403 25533
Impact India: 94495 44144

Gopinath, managing trustee of the Sparsha Trust shelter in Halasuru, shares that many people found abandoned on the streets are well-educated, unmarried, and have fallen into hardship with no family support.

Volunteers of the city chapter of Impact India consortium often find elderly people abandoned by their families, pregnant women who have been forced to leave home, and unemployed youth, shares secretary Dr Ramachandrappa H T.

No HC relief for Cong leader in FIR for ‘abusing’ official

'No man can be permitted to speak in the language so offensive'



BENGALURU, DHNS

The High Court of Karnataka has dismissed Congress leader B V Rajeev Gowda's petition challenging the FIRs registered against him for hurling abuses at Shidlagatta City Municipal Council (CMC) Commissioner Amrutha Gowda and the sitting MLA.

In her complaint, Amrutha Gowda stated that Rajeev Gowda hurled abuses over phone calls, taking objections to the

removal of banners put up at his behest for the promotion of the Kannada film *Cult*. "In the present matter, the complainant is not merely a public servant, but also a woman and no man can be permitted to speak in the language so offensive, so as to be beyond the pale of civility and lawful tolerance. At the very least, the language employed deserves investigation, as it is settled principle of law that an FIR is not an encyclopedia of offences," Justice M Nagaprasanna

said while rejecting the petitions filed by Rajeev Gowda. The issue was with the banners portraying Rajeev Gowda put up at Siddlaghatta, Chikkaballapura district, regarding *Cult's* promotion. The CMC commissioner, alongside the health inspector, cleared some placards from the fort area after receiving oral complaints that they slid and were causing disturbance to vehicular movement.

On January 12, Rajeev Gowda called Amrutha Gowda over mobile phone and hurled abuses, which was also circulated on social media. The other complaint was filed by C N Srinivasa Gowda, the vice-president of a political party in the taluk, for abuses against the sitting MLA of the constituency, in the very telephonic conversation. Challenging the FIRs registered under BNS sections 132, 224, 352, 351(3) and 56, the petitioner submitted that most of the offences were bailable and that Section 132 should not have been invoked, as there was no allegation that Rajeev Gowda used criminal force to stop the complainant from doing her duty. It was also submitted that the petitioner is willing to tender a public apology. After perusing the FIRs, the court observed that the police had not invoked BNS Section

79 in the complaint filed by Amrutha Gowda. The court also noted that it is always open to the Investigating Officer to add offences, should the material so warrant. "This court also notices that Sections 504 and 509 of the IPC/now 79 and 352 of BNS were not interpreted by the Supreme Court in a manner that, even use of filthy language depending upon the context and intent, may constitute an offence of insulting the modesty of a woman. The modesty of a woman is an attribute associated with womanhood as a class and that the ultimate test is whether the act is capable of shocking the sense of decency or dignity of a woman, gazed by contemporary societal standards. The abuses hurled in the facts and circumstances, require investigation in the least," Justice Nagaprasanna said.

MUDA case: ED attaches 10 immovable properties worth Rs 20.85 crore

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Thursday said it had attached 10 immovable properties worth an estimated Rs 20.85 crore in connection with its probe into money laundering aspect of the MUDA scam. The attached properties are six illegally allotted MUDA sites, three immovable properties and one commercial building. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah was among the suspects named by the ED. The ED initiated investigation on the basis of an FIR filed by the Lokayukta police in Mysuru over a large-scale scam in illegal site allotment by the Mysore Urban Development Authority (MUDA). "Searches in the case were undertaken by ED on 18.10.2024 and 28.10.2024. The searches revealed that the sites were allotted in

gross violation of letter dated 14.03.2023, GO dated 27.10.2023 Karnataka Urban Development Authorities (Allotment of Sites in lieu of compensation for the land Acquired) Rules, 2009, as amended in 2015 and Karnataka Urban Development Authority (Incentive Scheme for Voluntary Surrender of Land) Rules, 1991. Further, search action also revealed a deep nexus between MUDA Officers/officials and real estate businessmen," the ED said. "Evidence also revealed payment of cash for allotment of sites as compensation and approval of layouts," it added. Earlier, in the case, the ED had provisionally attached 283 illegally allotted MUDA sites and three personal properties. Further, G T Dinesh Kumar, former MUDA commissioner, who allegedly made

large-scale illegal allotment of MUDA sites, was arrested under the provisions of PMLA, 2002, on 16.09.2025. Presently, G T Dinesh Kumar is in judicial custody under PMLA, 2002," it added. ED's probe also revealed routing and layering of undue gratification obtained by Kumar. "Such proceeds of crime were used for purchasing immovable properties and construction of commercial building in the name of relative/associates of G T Dinesh Kumar. Further investigation also revealed gratification was received by former chairman of MUDA, SK Marigowda in the form of MUDA sites for illegal allotment of sites. Proceeds of crime having market value of Rs 460 crore (approx.) have been attached so far in the case under the provisions of PMLA, 2002," the agency added.

Activists question govt over use of elephants in processions

BENGALURU, DHNS: The use of elephants in ceremonial events has once again come to the fore with activists on Thursday questioning the need for bringing private elephants for an event scheduled to be held in the city on Friday.

In a letter issued to a mutt trust based in Nonavinakere of Tiptur (Tumakuru district), Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF), Wildlife, P C Ray has permitted the use of a female elephant belonging to the mutt for the inauguration of a renovated temple.

The letter, a copy of which is available with *DH*, permits the use of the elephant under the rules laid down by government order dated September 11, 2017 (FEE 248 FWL 2015). The order comes with a set of guidelines for 'Management and maintenance

of privately owned elephants in Karnataka state'. These guidelines were issued following an order by the High Court of Karnataka (WP 4610 of 2013). On November 23, 2015, a division bench of the court barred the use of elephants in any such events. "We direct the authorities to formulate guidelines for prohibiting the use of elephants in any form of begging, performance or procession, in consultation with all concerned in the matter," the court order said. Arun Prasad, member of the Bengaluru Urban district Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, said the government's order and guidelines were in violation of the HC order. "The 10(f) of the guidelines allowing procession and display of private elephants is in

complete violation of the court order. Officials know the difference between prohibition and regulation. We will take legal recourse if they do not end this practice," he added. *DH* wrote a detailed query to the office of the PCCF (Wildlife) but did not receive a response. Sources in the department, however, said several permissions were given for use of elephants in processions every year. Suparna Ganguly of the Compassion Unlimited Plus Action (CUPA) said elephants suffer greatly when they were put amidst crowds and processions. "They are not meant for such situations. These events will have long-lasting impacts on their mind similar to a trauma. Even physically they cannot suffer the long rides on a truck," she added.

Bengaluru second-most congested city in the world: TomTom ranking

ORR, Sarjapur Road most problematic during rush hours; OMR & Goraguntepalaya always clogged

BENGALURU, DHNS

Bengaluru has been ranked the world's second-most traffic-clogged city in 2025, behind only Mexico City, according to the latest TomTom

Traffic Index, an annual global assessment of congestion and commuting trends. Despite the Karnataka government positioning Bengaluru as a technology-forward global city, its position has steadily worsened in recent years — from sixth place in 2023 to third in 2024 and second in the past year. The report shows that average peak-hour speeds in Bengaluru fell to 13.9 kmph in 2025, down by 1 kmph from the previous year. Commuters took an average of 36 minutes and nine seconds to cover 10 km — over two minutes longer than in 2024. The city's congestion level, which measures additional travel

time caused by traffic, stood at 74.4%, up 1.7 percentage points year-on-year. In total, vehicle users lost an estimated 168 hours annually during peak-hour travel. Dublin followed Bengaluru in the global congestion rankings. Among Indian cities, Pune ranked fifth and Mumbai eighteenth, with average speeds of 18 kmph and 20.8 kmph, respectively. The report flagged May 17, a Saturday, as Bengaluru's worst traffic day of the year, when congestion peaked at 101%, and drivers needed 15 minutes to travel just 2.5 km during the evening rush. During morning rush hour, it takes approximately 41 min-

Pain points		
A senior police officer stated that the Outer Ring Road (ORR) and Sarjapur Road remained the most problematic during the rush hours in 2025. In comparison, areas which saw congestion throughout the day were Old Madras Road near NGEF and Goraguntepalaya. "This year, we aim to figure out a solution for the ORR. In February, we'll be organising a meeting with	All the ORR stakeholders. All the companies with offices along the ORR will be joining. We want everyone to work together and collectively reduce the number of private vehicles on that stretch. If the congestion problem on the ORR is solved, Bengaluru's congestion rate will drastically drop. Once Namma Metro's Blue Line opens, we'll see the shift," he told <i>DH</i> .	minutes during evening rush hour.

Advancing the art of cardiac surgery: Evolution of modern cardiac treatment

In a recent webinar organised by Meril, in association with Deccan Herald, under their ongoing campaign 'Treatment Zaroori Hai', leading medical experts highlighted common emerging trends, and practical realities surrounding robotic and minimally-invasive surgical techniques in everyday cardiac surgical practice. The webinar, held live on January 15, 2026, brought together senior cardiac surgeons from Bengaluru to discuss how technological advancements are reshaping heart care while reinforcing the importance of clinical judgment, patient selection and long-term outcomes.

As cardiac diseases continue to rise in India, driven by lifestyle changes, ageing populations, and delayed diagnosis, patients today are increasingly presented with multiple treatment options. While conventional open-heart surgery has long been the gold standard, newer approaches such as minimally-invasive and robotic-assisted cardiac surgery have expanded the surgical toolkit available to

clinicians. The webinar aimed at demystifying these options for patients and caregivers, helping them understand not just the benefits but also the limitations of advanced surgical technologies. Sanjeev Bhatt, Senior Vice President – Strategy, Meril, stated, "An enduring commitment to advancing healthcare solutions is the need of the hour so that more patients can live longer, healthier lives. Responding to unmet clinical needs while simultaneously acting as an agent of change is crucial. A strong focus on R&D and the manufacture of scientifically-researched medical devices is the key to driving progress in healthcare today. Providing next-generation, patient-centric treatment options that deliver value to healthcare stakeholders is what the medical fraternity is striving for."

The session was hosted by Sneha Ramesh and streamed live on the Deccan Herald website, Deccan Herald's YouTube channel, Facebook page, and other social media platforms, enabling wide participation from across the country. The panel featured

Dr Sudarshan G T, Senior Consultant – Cardiothoracic and Vascular Surgery, Fortis Hospital; Dr Adil Sadiq, Senior Consultant and Head of the Department of Cardiothoracic and Vascular Surgery, Sakra World Hospital; Dr Thiruthani Kumaran M M, Senior Consultant – Cardiothoracic and Vascular Surgery, Narayana Institute of Cardiac Sciences; and Dr Arul Dominic Furtado, Senior Consultant – Cardiothoracic and Vascular Surgery, Aster CMI Hospital.

Patient-centric approach One of the central themes of the discussion was the shift in cardiac surgery from a procedure-driven mindset to a patient-centric approach. Surgeons today are no longer asking only 'whether a surgery can be performed safely', but rather 'which surgical approach will offer the best long-term outcome with the least disruption to the patient's life'. According to the panel, this change reflects greater maturity in both technology adoption and clinical decision-making. Robotic-assisted and minimally-invasive techniques, the doctors

- Lifestyle changes, ageing population, delayed diagnosis leading to spike in cardiac ailments in India.
- Clinicians have more options now such as minimally-invasive and robotic-assisted procedures resulting in lesser trauma and quicker recovery.
- The key to more positive outcomes is in early diagnosis and intervention.
- Specialists are moving from a procedure-driven mindset to a patient-centric approach. Choice of procedure depends on patient and complexity of condition too - not merely technology available.
- Cost and access remain a concern for patients. Advanced technologies should never be positioned as a 'superior option'.
- Future of cardiac surgery is in holistic care with an integrated approach.
- Healthcare delivery that's grounded in experience, evidence and ethical practice marks true progress, not technology alone.

explained, were developed to address specific clinical gaps. Many patients who were otherwise fit for surgery delayed or avoided treatment due to fear of pain, prolonged hospitalisation or extended recovery periods. By reducing surgical trauma and improving precision, these techniques aim at making surgery more acceptable without compromising on safety or effectiveness.

Prudent choice of procedure However, the panel was unanimous in stressing that smaller incisions alone do not define success. Dr Sudarshan noted that while patients often experience less post-operative pain, earlier mobility and quicker return to daily activities, these benefits are meaningful only when the procedure is appropriately selected. For surgeons, minimally-invasive and robotic procedures require meticulous planning, detailed imaging and disciplined execution. The margin for error is smaller, and preparation becomes as critical as surgical skill.

Early intervention means better outcome Another key issue discussed was late presentation of heart valve disease in India. Symptoms such as breathlessness, fatigue or reduced stamina are frequently dismissed as age-related or lifestyle-related problems. As a result, patients often seek medical attention only when symptoms become severe, limiting treatment options and increasing surgical risk. The doctors emphasised that early diagnosis not only preserves heart function but also broadens the range of available treatment options, including minimally-invasive approaches. Despite rapid technological advancement, conventional open-heart surgery continues to play a vital role. The panel highlighted that complex cardiac conditions - such as multi-valve disease, redo surgeries or cases with extensive calcification - often require the access, flexibility and control that open surgery provides. Technology, they reiterated, is an enabler, not a replacement for sound surgical judgment.

Patient-procedure match, cost factor Patient selection emerged as a recurring theme throughout the discussion. Choosing the right candidate for a particular surgical approach involves evaluating not just anatomy and disease severity, but also physical resilience, co-morbidities and social factors such as post-operative support at home. A technically-successful surgery, the doctors cautioned, is incomplete if the patient struggles during recovery. The panel also addressed concerns around cost, particularly in the Indian context. While robotic surgery may involve higher upfront costs, quicker recovery and earlier return to work can reduce indirect expenses for certain patients. That said, affordability and access remain critical considerations, and advanced technologies should never be positioned as the only or inherently superior option.

Infrastructure, expertise Hospital infrastructure and team expertise were identified as equally important as surgeon skill. Advanced cardiac surgery depends on a coordinated ecosystem that includes high-quality imaging, specialised anaesthesia, perfusion support, intensive care and trained nursing staff. Even the most skilled surgeon, the panel noted, cannot deliver consistent outcomes without a system designed to support precision and safety. **Recovery, pain management** The discussion also touched upon the integration of enhanced recovery pathways in cardiac care. Standardised protocols for pain management, nutrition, early mobilisation and rehabilitation have helped reduce variability in outcomes and empowered patients to play an active role in their recovery. Minimally-invasive and robotic surgeries, which reduce physiological stress, often integrate particularly well with these structured recovery programmes. As the webinar concluded, the experts reiterated a balanced and pragmatic message. The future of cardiac surgery does not lie in choosing between open, minimally-invasive or robotic techniques, but in mastering all three and applying them thoughtfully. True progress, they agreed, comes not from technological dominance but from patient-focused decision-making grounded in experience, evidence and ethical practice.

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Dr Thiruthani Kumaran M M
Senior Consultant – Cardiothoracic and Vascular Surgery, Narayana Institute of Cardiac Sciences



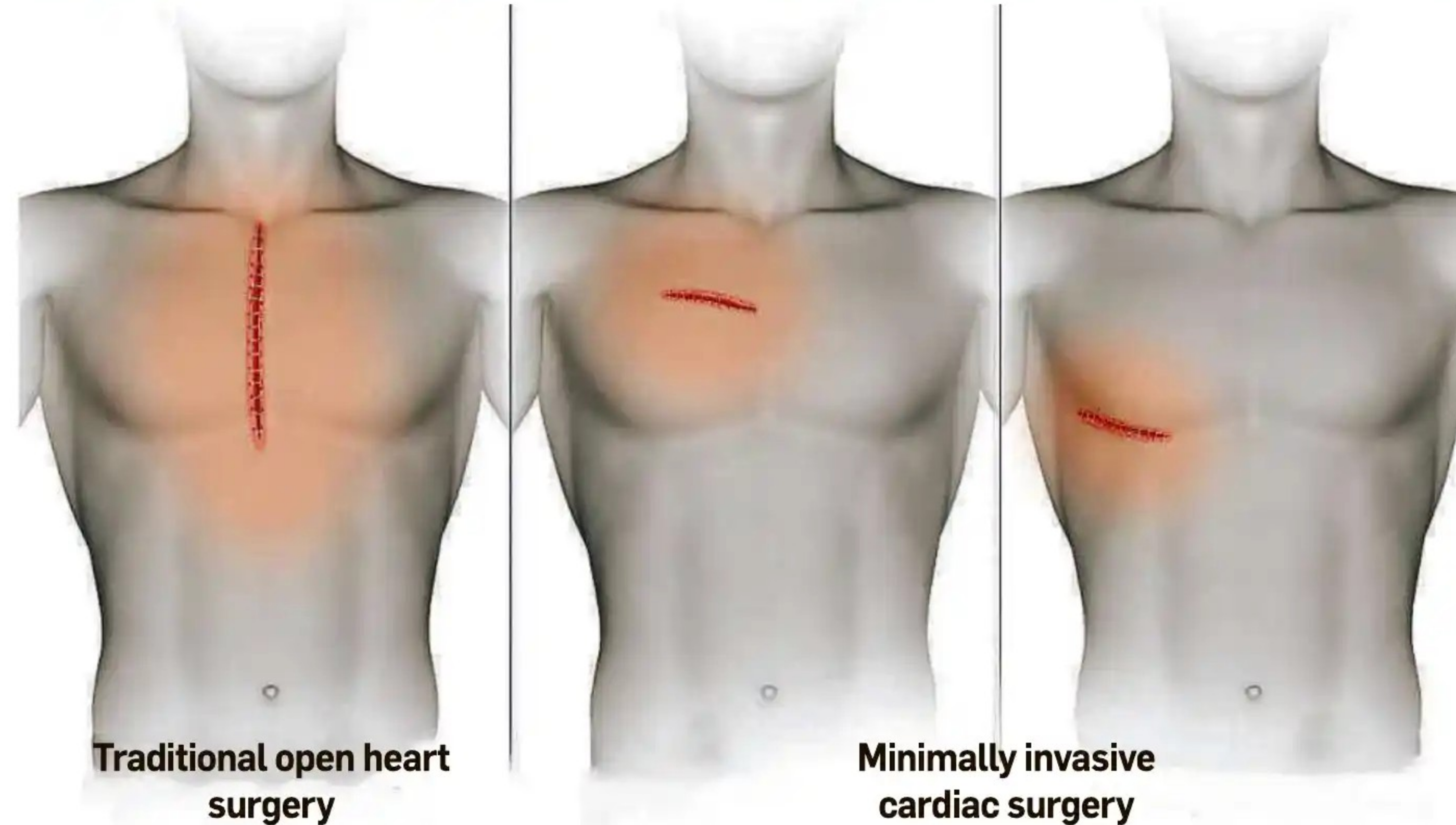
Dr Sudarshan G T
Senior Consultant – Cardiothoracic and Vascular Surgery, Fortis Hospital

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Through initiatives such as 'Treatment Zaroori Hai', Meril and Deccan Herald continue to foster informed dialogue around complex healthcare topics, bridging the gap between medical expertise and public understanding. For patients navigating difficult decisions about heart surgery, the webinar underscored an essential truth - the right treatment, chosen at the right time, remains the cornerstone of successful care.

Disclaimer: The views/suggestions/ opinions expressed in the article are the sole responsibility of the brand concerned. This should not be considered a substitute for medical advice. Please consult your treating physician for more details.

Curated by **DH Brandspot**



SSLC student ends life in Yadgir, father files complaint against teachers

YADGIR, DHNS: The body of SSLC student, Pavan Mallappa Pujari (16), was found hanging from a tree behind the government high school in Vadagera of Yadgir district on Wednesday.

The student's father Mallappa Pujari has lodged a complaint

stating that his son died by suicide after being abused by the teachers.

SP Prithvi Shankar, ZP CEO Lavish Oradia and other officials from the Education department visited the spot to conduct the inspection.

The student, who hailed from Ambedkar Nagar in the town, had attended the classes and examination apart from taking part in Nijasharana Ambigara Chowdayya birth anniversary programme. But, he was found hanging at 2 pm, the school teachers said.

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I, CHIPPADA SUBBARAO S/O CHIPPADA SATYAM, R/O B 602, Keya Around The Life, Near Chaitanya Ananya, Seeghalli, Bangalore-560067 have changed name from CHIPPADA SUBBARAO to CHIPPADA V V SUBBARAO FOR ALL PURPOSES.

I, MADHAN V. S/o Late Venkatesh V. R/a#65 Sri.Lakshmi Venkateshwara Nilaya Gattigerepalya Banashankari 6th Stage,6th Block Chudenapura post Bengaluru 560060 have changed my Name to MADAN V. vide affidavit dated:23.12.2025 before Notary Mohammed Hussain.K. Bangalore.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are hereby informed that our Client intends to purchase the immovable property more particularly described hereunder and referred to herein as "Schedule Property" from its present owner, Mrs. Vijayalakshmi Rajgopal, residing at No. 1 SBI Colony, 7th B Main, 3rd Block, Koramangala 560034 (hereinafter referred to as "Owner").

Notice is hereby given to the general public that if any person/s, entity, company, firm, institution (corporate or otherwise) has any claims or right, title, interest, pending litigation, tenancy, mortgage, charge, lien or demand or any other interest of whatsoever nature in or upon the Schedule Property or any part thereof, the same may be brought to the notice of the undersigned in writing together with all details and documents in support of such claim within 15 (fifteen) days from the date of this Notice, failing which, it shall be deemed that the aforesaid Owner has a clear and marketable title to the Schedule Property and that no one else has any right, title, interest or claim whatsoever in respect of the Schedule Property; and our Client would be at liberty to proceed to enter into and complete the intended transaction relating to acquisition of the Schedule Property. Any objections and/or claims received after the expiry of the period mentioned above shall neither be entertained nor be binding on our Client.

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All the piece and parcel of land measuring about 5,673 square feet, bearing Site Nos. 1 and 2, State Bank of India Officers Colony, Koramangala, Ward No. 68, part of land formerly bearing Survey Number 56 of Jakkasandra Village, Koramangala, Bengaluru 560034, bearing EPID No.5239060890, along with a residential building measuring about 4,000 square feet, and bounded on: East By : Sites bearing Nos. 15 & 16; West By : Road; North By : Site bearing No. 3; and South By :Service Road.

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STATE

TET for teachers: Govt staff association files review plea in SC

High Court has upheld the mandatory test

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Karnataka State Government Employees Association (KS-GTA) has filed a review pe-

tion in the Supreme Court, requesting to re-examine its order mandating Teachers Eligibility Test (TET), even for teachers in service. In its order in September

2025, the court had mandated clearing TET for all teachers, including those already in service.

According to the order, teachers who were appointed before the TET mandate and have less than five years of service left for retirement may continue without clearing TET.

However, they will not be considered for promotion unless they pass the exam. Teachers in service before

the mandate and having more than five years left until retirement must clear TET within two years.

Failing to do so will result in compulsory retirement or termination, along with payment of retirement benefits. This has affected 1 lakh to 1.2 lakh teachers in service.

The KSGTA had also urged the government to file a review petition in favour of the teachers and also requested the union govern-

ment's intervention by holding a 'Delhi Chalo'.

As nothing worked in their favour, KSGTA filed a review petition recently.

Interestingly, some from Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal have filed review petitions, which are still pending before the Supreme Court.

A few were directed to re-submit the petition due to technical issues.

Shikaripur Morarji school students to attend New Delhi R-Day as guests

NRUPATHUNGA S K SHIVAMOGGA DHNS

Two class 10 students of Morarji Desai Residential School at Churchigundi in Shikaripur taluk --- M S Yashavath and Shankar --- will participate in the 77th Republic Day programme, to be held at the Red Fort in New Delhi on January 26, as guests.

This is the only school in Karnataka that has won a national-level competition organised by NITI Aayog.

Second division assistant M V Tejaswi Kumar, who guided the students, and Principal Suma B S will fly to Delhi soon to be part of the event. They can sit with the guests and watch the parade at the Republic Day programme.

They are scheduled to meet Union Minister of Education and Skill Development Dharmendra Pradhan.

Through NITI Aayog, Atal Tinkering Labs have been set up in 10,000 government and private schools in the country. Students are selected for the Republic Day programme based on the quality of the projects undertaken in the lab.

Using the lab in the school, the students have prepared a 'multi-purpose agricultural equipment machine' in which 12 agricultural equipment, including sowing machines, pesticide spraying, drip irrigation and other equipment have been installed in a



Class 10 students of Morarji Desai Residential School of Churchigudi M S Yashavath and Shankar have prepared a 'multi-purpose agricultural equipment machine' in which 12 agricultural equipment, including sowing machines, pesticide spraying, drip irrigation and other equipment, have been installed in a single machine.

single machine.

Out of 10,000 projects, 1,000 schools were selected in the first phase, and this school secured 86th position. Later, the project was reviewed by the Engineering College in Jaipur. Later, it was selected as the best project in Karnataka.

Mangaluru-based Nitte Engineering College has been entrusted with the responsibility of expanding the project in the presence of the students from February 16 to 18.

The Morarji School students, teach-

ers and parents have congratulated the students for their achievement.

MP B Y Raghavendra said the achievement of the students is a source of inspiration for other students.

"The good use of the Atal Tinkering Lab has brought me joy. I will try to expand the laboratory to more schools in the district," he said.

Principal Suma told DH that the lab was set up in the school in 2020. Tejaswi Kumar, who has done a PhD, is interested in developing ideas into models, she added.

No K'taka tableau at this Republic Day parade; float to feature at Bharat Parv event

NEW DELHI, DHNS

Karnataka's tableau will not feature in this year's Republic Day parade on Monday, but the state will showcase its tableau themed 'Millets to Microchip', at the Bharat Parv event at the Red Fort ground.

The state wanted to showcase the 'Millets to Microchip' tableau in this year's parade on Kartavya Path. However, it was not selected.

The state's tableau showcases its contributions to Atmanirbhar Bharat, from agriculture and millets to advanced technology and semiconductor innovation, a statement from the state



Karnataka's tableau 'Millets to Microchip' will be showcased at the Bharat Parv event at the Red Fort ground in New Delhi, between January 26 and 31.

department of information and public relations said.

Normally, all tableaux which participate in the pa-

rade are also featured at the Bharat Parv event.

This is an annual, multi-day mega event organised

by the union ministry of tourism, to celebrate the country's unity in diversity, between January 26 and 31.

As many as 30 tableaux from 17 states and union territories (UTs), and 13 central government departments will participate in this year's Republic Day parade based the theme - 'the mantra of freedom is Vande Mataram' and 'the mantra of prosperity is Aatmanirbhar Bharat'.

Apart from Karnataka, the states of Goa, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh will have no floats this year as the union government follows a rotation policy to ensure that all states and UTs get a chance.

Puttur man accused of domestic violence attempts suicide in front of judge

MANGALURU, DHNS: A 37-year-old man, accused of domestic violence by his wife, attempted to end his life by consuming poison in front of the judge at the 5th Additional District and Sessions Court in Puttur court

complex, on Thursday.

The man identified as Ravi was given first aid at a hospital in Puttur and was shifted to district Wenlock hospital for further treatment.

According to police sources, Ravi, a resident of Kavu

Maniyadka near Mudnoor village, picked up quarrel with his wife Vidyashree and tried to strangle her a few days back.

Following the domestic violence complaint by Vidyashree at women's police

station in Puttur, the police directed Ravi to appear before them for inquiry. On Thursday, Ravi entered the court complex and consumed 'Karate', a chemical used in cashew plantations as a substitute for the banned

Endosulfan. Vidyashree accompanied Ravi while he was being shifted to Mangaluru.

A case is likely to be registered based on the complaint of the judge, the police said.

CBI moves HC to cancel advance bail granted to ex-minister Nagendra

AMBARISH B BENGALURU, DHNS

The High Court of Karnataka on Thursday ordered a notice to former minister B Nagendra on the CBI's petition for cancellation of his anticipatory bail.

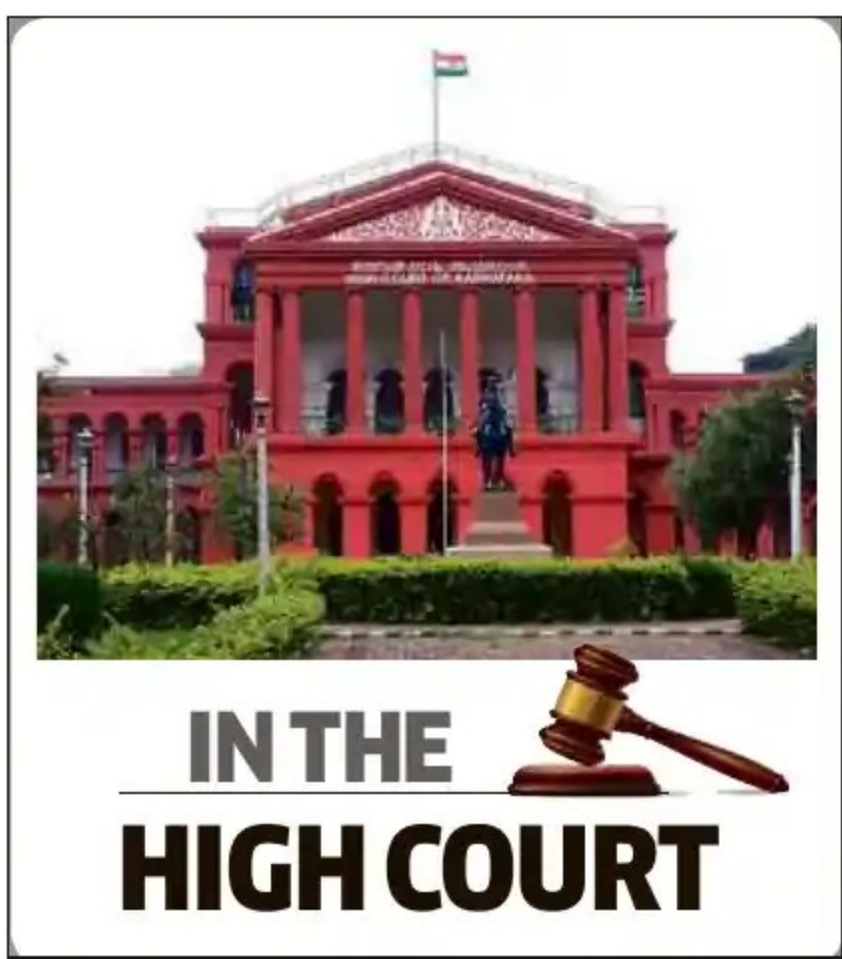
On January 14, 2026, the special court for cases involving MP/MLAs granted him anticipatory bail in the Karnataka Maharshi Valmiki Scheduled Tribes Development Corporation scam.

On June 3, 2024, the CBI registered the FIR for offences under IPC sections 120B, 409, 420, 467 and 468 and Section 13(1)(a) of the Prevention of Corruption Act. The FIR was based

on the complaint filed by the Deputy General Manager, Union Bank of India, Regional Head of Bengaluru, alleging misappropriation of funds by illegally transferring/withdrawing Rs 89.63 crore from the corporation's accounts between February 21 and May 21, 2024.

The CBI stated that as the Minister of Scheduled Tribes Welfare between May 2023 and June 2024, Nagendra was instrumental in transferring Rs 187 crore from other bank accounts of the corporation to the Union Bank of India, MG Road branch in Bengaluru.

He then siphoned off Rs 89.63 crore by utilising 18 fictitious bank accounts.



IN THE HIGH COURT

The CBI submitted that Nagendra's role had resurfaced when the agency probed the fund diversion from the corporation and the Karnataka German Technical Training Institute (KGTTI).

It also claimed that Nagendra had received illegal grati-

fication for awarding the skill development tender to SKR Infrastructures.

After the tender, Rs 5.17 crore was transferred to the accounts of persons connected to Nagendra and later transferred to the bank accounts of Nagendra's relatives and his private secretaries, the CBI said.

Custodial interrogation Similarly, Nagendra favoured Sadguru Solutions and Sadguru Education Trust in allotting the skill development works at Nomatic Tribal Development Corporation through KGTTI and received illegal gratification, the CBI stated, adding that these aspects require his

custodial interrogation and confrontation with vital investigation materials as the magnitude of the crime is far reaching.

According to the CBI, Nagendra had been unresponsive, uncooperative and made false and frivolous contentions during the investigation. It also contended that the special court granted him anticipatory bail without taking note of these investigation materials.

The CBI further submitted that the investigation is being monitored by the high court and that the agency is probing a larger conspiracy in the case, including serious economic and corruption offences.

K'taka's economic suppression will hit India: Govt in speech guv didn't read

Cong stand: 'G RAM G is contractor-centric, protects corporate capitalist interests'



Siddu's XI that Guv didn't want to read

- 1 K'taka facing a suppressive economic, policy situation.
- 2 Repealing MGNREGA weakens India's rural life.
- 3 VB-G RAM (G) Act protects corporate capitalist interests.
- 4 Government strongly condemns this anti-progressive measure.
- 5 Centre has uprooted decentralised framework.
- 6 Under the new law, decisions are imposed from the Centre.
- 7 New law curtails rights of Dalits, Adivasis, women, backward classes and agrarian communities.
- 8 Not consulting states is unconstitutional conduct.
- 9 Labourers being placed under contractors' control.
- 10 States already facing fiscal stress due to Centre.
- 11 VB-G RAM (G) Act facilitates large-scale corruption.

BENGALURU, DHNS

Karnataka faces "a suppressive situation in economic and policy matters" in the federal setup, the Congress government said in a scathing attack on the Modi administration through Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot's curtailed address to the joint legislature session on Thursday.

"The union government must seriously consider that economically suppressing Karnataka, which occupies a driving position in the national economy, will adversely affect the entire country," the government said, pointing to "injustice" in tax devolution, centrally sponsored programmes and other schemes.

Under the 15th Finance Commission, the government said the state was "denied" resources worth Rs 1.25 lakh crore. "This grave injustice has been brought to the notice of the 16th Finance Commission. The government is firmly confident that this injustice will be rectified in the coming days," it said.

The Congress government demanded the scrapping of the "contractor-centric" Viksit Bharat-Guarantee for Rozgar & Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) Act.

It also sought restoration of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA).

"Worker-centric rights under MGNREGA have been diluted and labourers are being placed under contractors' control," the government said, adding that it would lead to "large-



Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot exits the Legislative Assembly hall after reading only three lines from government speech, at Vidhana Soudha on Thursday.

scale corruption".

These are among paragraphs that Gehlot wanted dropped from the speech that the government had prepared for him to read.

The new law is designed to protect "corporate capitalist interests," the governmentsaid.

"As a result, the noble objectives of rural asset creation and providing employment to labourers at their place of residence have been reduced to nothing," the governmentsaid, calling it "anti-progressive".

MGNREGA was "a monumental chapter" for rural India, the government said.

Its repeal "has deprived rural wage labourers, small farmers and women of their rights to employment and unemployment allowance," it said.

The MGNREGA was launched in 2005 in line with Gandhi's vision to make villages independent and autonomous, the government said.

"Over the last 20 years, the state has undertaken 76.89 lakh works under this scheme at a cost of Rs 61,030 crore and generated 182.5 crore person-days

The VB-G RAM (G) Act "reinstates migration to cities in search of employment," the speech said. "Under the new law, states already facing financial stress due to union policies must contribute 40% of the funding," the government said

of employment," it said.

While MGNREGA addressed distress migration, the government charged that the new law will see officials in Delhi decide where employment will be provided.

The VB-G RAM (G) Act "reinstates migration to cities in search of employment," the speech said.

"Under the new law, states already facing financial stress due to union policies must contribute 40% of the funding," the government said.

"If states fail to contribute, Centre will withhold funds and scheme's gradual extinction".

Not G RAM G, govt goes with 'Gram G'

BENGALURU, DHNS: The state government, in its speech prepared for Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot on Thursday, referred to the VB-G RAM (G) Act as 'VB Gram-G Act'. Earlier, Law & Parlia-

mentary Affairs Minister H K Patil had said that the government did not want to add a religious colour to the issue. "Why did they [Centre] bring in 'Ram' into this?"

Governor Gehlot: Polite in demeanour, rock solid in resolve

SUMIT PANDE
NEW DELHI, DHNS

In the winter of 2013, BJP was preparing to hold elections for the post of national president. Nitin Gadkari, the incumbent, faced covert and overt challenges within the organization.

Early January, the man chosen to conduct elections got a call from a senior BJP leader from the anti-Gadkari camp. The legal luminary who would later become a Rajya Sabha MP sought a copy of the voters' list for the presidential polls.

Despite being politely told of the process, when the person on the other side persisted with his

arguments, Thaawarchand Gehlot did not hesitate in ticking off the top-notch lawyer: "You may be a senior advocate, but I also know the law," Gehlot said and disconnected the phone.

Born in a humble background in Madhya Pradesh a year after Independence, Gehlot, despite maintaining a low profile has remained a stickler to rules, and somebody who has understood and delivered on his mandate.

Initiated into public life by the RSS, he worked closely with Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh, the trade union wing of the RSS.

Jailed during the Emergency for a year under MISA (Maintenance

A native of Madhya Pradesh, Thaawarchand Gehlot is a product of the anti-Emergency agitation

of Internal Security Act), Gehlot, in his interactions with journalists when he was a national office bearer in Delhi, would often recollect the tough time faced by his family when he was incarcerated.

When the BJP was formed after the rupture of the Janata Parivar in 1980, Gehlot got an opportunity to contest the Madhya Pradesh Assembly elections, which he won.

He remained a member of the MP Assembly for four terms. In 1996, he was elected to the Lok Sabha from Shajapur in MP and went on to win three more elections to the lower house of Parliament.

Gehlot has worked closely with generations of top BJP leaders from Vajpayee and Advani to Narendra Modi. He was nominated to the party parliamentary board, the top decision-making body of the BJP, and also to the central election committee.

He was elected to the Rajya Sabha for the first time in 2012, and later went on to serve as minister for social justice and empowerment in the Modi government. He succeeded

Arun Jaitley as leader of the House in the Rajya Sabha.

In July 2021, when Prime Minister Narendra Modi, mid-way into this second term in office effected a Cabinet reshuffle accompanied by an organizational rejig, Gehlot was appointed Governor of Karnataka.

With Assembly elections just two years away in Karnataka, the BJP, bracing for a tough contest against the Congress, had decided to send its social justice minister to the Raj Bhavan (now called Lok Bhavan) in Bengaluru as Siddaramaiah and team had assembled their Ahinda (Kannada acronym for minorities, backward classes and Dalits) juggernaut.

Guarantees to investments, govt gives itself full marks

Promises to expedite recruitment process

BENGALURU, DHNS

Karnataka wants to double the pace of the state's economic, social and physical development, the Congress government said in Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot's curtailed address.

"Despite facing various forms of oppression within the federal framework, the state is performing exemplary work..." the government stated. "Karnataka has created its own models of development and is engaged in public welfare, regional welfare, and the building of a harmonious state."

The Congress government has spent Rs 1.16 lakh crore on the five 'guarantee' schemes. "As many as 89% of beneficiaries have stated that they have witnessed improvement in family relationships due to the guarantee schemes," it stated.

Karnataka is placed second when it comes to foreign investments, having attracted Rs 80,997 crore between April



CM Siddaramaiah addresses reporters after Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot leaves without delivering his speech at joint session.

and September this fiscal. "In the export sector, the state has retained first position by exporting goods worth \$99,309 million. In addition, the state continues to hold a leading position in the IT sector as well," the government stated.

Karnataka is at the forefront when it comes to renewable energy, the government said, adding: "In the two years since assuming office, an additional 4,032 megawatts of power generation capacity has been added."

The government said it was "committed" to reducing traffic congestion in Bengaluru, adding that works worth Rs 1.7 lakh crore have been taken up for "comprehensive development" of the city. The govern-

119 new laws in 2025

The legislature passed 119 new laws in 2025, the government said. That's roughly 10 new laws every month. The new laws passed last year include criminalising betrothal of children, protection of borrowers from harassment by microfinance institutions and prohibition of social boycotts.

ment also said that it had provided Rs 8,000 crore under the Chief Minister's Infrastructure Development Programme and works had commenced.

Aiming fiscal discipline and transparency in public works, the government said online bill submission is mandatory through the 'Contract Management Module'.

The government promised that recruitment processes would be further expedited in the coming days. "Due to the issue of internal reservation, there had been some delay in recruitments...recruitment processes have now commenced," it stated.

Social audits show 1.33 lakh flaws in MGNREGA: Chouhan

BENGALURU, DHNS: Union Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Thursday charged that more than 1.33 lakh irregularities had been detected in the implementation of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) in Karnataka through social audits.

Addressing a press conference with Union Minister H D Kumaraswamy and state BJP leaders, Chouhan displayed a photograph of a man wearing a saree to fraudulently claim MGNREGA wages in Yadgir district and cited it as an example of the scale of corruption.

He said it was alarming that the state government had taken no action in 3,551 cases exposed through social audits, despite the possibility of recovering Rs 107.78 crore.

Referring to the CAG report, he said only Rs 2.47 crore had actually been recovered, though Lokpal authorities had recommended recovery of Rs 24.12 crore.

Accusing the Congress of guaranteeing "commissions, corruption and bad governance," he said the party was levelling allegations against the Centre to

hide its failures.

Elaborating specific instances, he said 21 works were to be executed in five gram panchayats of Aland taluk in Kalaburagi district in 2024-25. But the physical inspections revealed the use of machines instead of human labour and the creation of fake records to siphon off funds, he claimed.

In Kallur gram panchayat, a school compound wall was constructed but shown in records as a toilet, while a lake excavation was shown as a rainwater harvesting structure.

Chouhan alleged that one work was split into multiple parts to draw additional funds and that several works existed only on paper.

In some villages, members of a family were repeatedly shown as beneficiaries. In lake desilting works, silt was dumped on the bund and washed back into the lake during rains, after which funds were again claimed by showing the same lake as freshly desilted.

Rejecting allegations of discrimination, he said the UPA government released Rs 8,739.32 crore to Karnataka between 2006-07 and 2013-14, while the NDA released Rs 48,549.82 crore

Ashoka seeks disciplinary action against Cong leaders for 'disrespecting' Guv

BENGALURU, DHNS:

Leader of the Opposition R Ashoka wrote to Assembly Speaker U T Khader on Thursday seeking disciplinary action against Congress lawmakers who "disrespected" Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot inside the Assembly on Thursday.

"As per rule 27 of the rules of procedure and conduct of business, whenever the governor addresses the joint session of the legislature under Article 176 or the Legislative Assembly under Article 175, no member should obstruct the speech either before or after it is made. Such an obstruction should be considered a grave offence of the house rules and the speaker must deal with it," the letter said.

Hariprasad confronts Gehlot

As Gehlot exited, senior Congress MLC B K Hariprasad confronted him. While being escorted away by the marshals, Hariprasad was pulled aside. After the commotion, Hariprasad was left with a torn kurta. Speaking to reporters later,



MLC Hariprasad B K was left with a torn kurta during the commotion at Vidhana Soudha.

Hariprasad said: "The Governor's behaviour is unconstitutional. This was an attempt by the Governor at the behest of RSS, Mohan Bhagawat, Narendra Modi and Amit Shah to tarnish the history of Karnataka and the legislature. The BJP

doesn't believe in the Constitution, democracy and has tried to weaken the system. I am not a coward to give a police complaint. We will give an appropriate answer."

Law minister slammed

Taking to X (formerly Twitter) later, Ashoka targeted Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister H K Patil.

"It's shameful and condemnable that Law Minister H K Patil, a senior member, has himself set such a precedent. H K Patil doesn't deserve to remain as the law minister even for a moment."

Earlier occasions

"Even earlier, previous governors like Khurshid Alam Khan and Hansraj Bharadwaj had just tabled the speeches. Even then, the national anthem was played and they were seen off with respect. Today, the national anthem wasn't played and the governor was not seen off with respect. This is a grave insult to the Constitution, the governor's post and most importantly, the national anthem," the leader of the Opposition said.



Governors' tiff with non-BJP govts on address & what law says on their powers

The confrontation between Lok Bhavans (formally governor houses) and non-BJP ruled state governments have come to a head over differences in the Governor's address to state legislature. Sumit Pande explains the mandate and powers vested on the Governors and the state Cabinet in deciding the speech made at the beginning of the first session of the year.

How does the Constitution define the powers of the state legislature?

Schedule 6 of the Constitution (Article 152 to 237) deals with the state legislature and executive in India's federal polity. State executive comprises the Council of Ministers with Chief Minister as its head and Governor, who is an appointee of the President.

Depending on whether the state has a unicameral or bicameral polity, the Assembly alone or together with the council, as the case may be, and the Governor, constitute the state legislature.

Except in matters where he is mandated to exercise his discretion as per the Constitution, the Governor functions on the aid and the advice of the Council of Ministers headed by the Chief Minister (Article 163).

What are the powers of the Governor in convening a session of the state legislature?

Article 174 empowers the Governor to summon the House or Houses "to meet at such time and place as he thinks fit". In a landmark judgement on the powers of Arunachal Pradesh Governor (Nabam Redia case-2016), a 5-member bench of the Supreme Court adjudicated that the Governor's discretion under this Article did not extend to summoning the House or Houses and he has to go by the advice of the state council of ministers.

What does the Constitution say on the Governor's address to the state legislature?

Articles 175 and 176 deal with the Governor's address to the state legislature. The first empowers the Governor to address or send messages to the legislature. Subsequently, Article 176 says, at the commencement of the first session after Assembly polls and at the commencement of the first session of each year, the Governor "shall address the Legislative Assembly or, in the case of a state having a Legislative Council, both Houses assembled together and inform the legislature of the causes of its summons".

How have courts dealt with the Governor's address to the state legislature?

In 1966, the Rajasthan HC ruled that partial speech by the Governor could be deemed as address to the legislature as the "essence of the matter in the address was the Governor coming into direct & immediate communication with representatives of the people".

The Calcutta HC in a similar case (Syed Habibullah vs Speaker of West Bengal Assembly) said the address by the Governor at the commencement of session was not just directory, but mandatory. The court, however, felt laying of or delivery of a partial speech can be seen only as an irregularity and not illegality. Hence, under such circumstances, the summoning of the House and its subsequent proceedings are deemed to be legal.

Has a state Assembly started a budget session without the Governor's address?

In 2022, the Telangana Assembly started budget session without Governor's address. The BRS government led by K Chandrababhan Naidu did not prorogue the House after last session of previous year. The budget session was deemed a continuation of previous session & so, didn't mandate Governor's address.

Vijayapura & Bagalkot to host Karnataka State Olympics 2027

TUMAKURU, DHNS: Vijayapura and Bagalkot will jointly host the Karnataka State Olympics 2027, Karnataka Olympic Association K Govindaraj said on Thursday.

“The venue for the next State Olympics was decided after holding discussions with Chief Minister Siddaramaiah. The meeting resolved to host the sports meet in Vijayapura and Bagalkot,” he said addressing the gathering on the concluding day of the State Olympics meet. The concluding day of the sports meet saw a keenly-contested final in football. Belagavi team held its nerve to go past Mysuru side via tiebreaker (5-3).

Cabinet nod for 5-year age...

Age relaxation, from Page 1

The state government had constituted a one-member commission headed by retired judge Nagamohan Das to study the sub-classification of SCs, halting new recruitment notifications until the report was submitted and a decision on the internal reservation finalised.

The commission submitted its report proposing sub-categorisation based on social, educational and employment backwardness, recommending internal quotas within the 17% SC reservation, leading to the Karnataka SC Sub-Classification Act, 2025.

Karnataka has around 4 lakh posts lying vacant in various departments for the last 3 years. Highest vacancies are in the department of school education and literacy with 79,694 posts, followed by health and family welfare department with 37,572 and home department with 28,188 posts.

The Cabinet decision comes close on the heels of the High Court on Tuesday orally observing that it has not prevented the government from making recruitments to various vacant posts as per the earlier reservation limit.

Lakkundi heritage authority plans to dig deeper to unearth ‘marvels’

Excavation may bring ‘temple-well connectivity’ to fore

MANJUNATH HEGDE BOMNALLI HUBBALLI, DHNS

With the excavation reaching the depth of seven feet at a 10X10 metre site in historic Lakkundi in Gadag district, the authorities plan to dig deeper from Friday hoping to unearth historical marvels from the erstwhile capital of Hoysalas and Kalyana Chalukyas.

After the excavation at the site between Kote Veerabhadreshwar Temple and Siddarabavi began on January 16, stone Panipeetha, Jinabimbapeetha, clay coin, Nagara stone, metal lamp, part of Linga, broken pot and bones have been found. As the original ground level of the area is supposed to be around seven feet below due to the accumulation of mud over the centuries, the excavation will henceforth be

comparatively more delicate, slow, and cautious.

“The excavation of earth carried out, so far, was 1 to 1.5-foot per day. The excavation team has reached a depth of seven feet. Starting Friday, the excavation will be only for two to three inches per day as it has now reached the earlier ground level. The digging will go on up to 14 feet, and it may take four months of time,” said Lakkundi Heritage Area Development Authority chairman Sharanu Gogeri.

It is believed that Kote Veerabhadreshwar Temple and Siddarabavi had a unique connectivity. Something like stone steps or anything of archaeological importance are expected, he noted.

The chief minister had formally initiated the excavation in June last year after the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) gave permission. The



A stone platform with a carving of a Jina found during excavation in Lakkundi, Gadag district. DH PHOTO

actual commencement of the excavation was delayed due to the rains. Now, a total of 34 workers are engaged in the excavation led by a retired ASI officer.

There is a saying that the number of historical temples and step-wells is 101 each in Lakkundi, a major centre during the times of Kalyana Chalukya, Hoysala, Kalachuri and Vijayanagara empires. Though the number of such structures found today is less, several houses have come up on the structures below the ground, it is said.

It is being planned to request the government for excavation at more sites and shift families having houses at/over histori-

cal structures, Gogeri said.

Gadag District In-charge and Tourism Minister H K Patil has said 16 sites at Lakkundi are declared state-protected monuments so far, eight temples are expected to get this tag by February-end, and the authority is asked to propose the government in a month to include 20 more structures in the list. The village has seven centrally-protected monuments.

Siddu Patil from Lakkundi, who is also a member of the authority, stated that elders used to talk about the steps connecting Kote Veerabhadreshwar Temple and Siddarabavi, and other archaeological relics.

Honesty pays, Ritti family to get plot

The Lakkundi Gram Panchayat has decided to allot a 30X40 site to the family of Prajwal Ritti who sincerely handed over the gold ornaments and other articles, found while digging for the foundation of a house in the village, to the state government.

A decision in this regard was taken during the special gram sabha held at Lakkundi on Thursday. The Ritti family will be provided a plot at the Maruti Nagar in the village.

In order to inspire other children on the path of Prajwal, the meeting decided to put up a writing about Prajwal's honest deed, along with his photo, at all the schools coming under the gram panchayat.

The Ritti family was honoured on the occasion.

10 Army soldiers die...

Soldiers, from Page 1

Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha expressed sorrow over the loss of lives.

In a post on X, the L-G said: “Deeply saddened at the loss of lives of 10 of our brave Indian Army soldiers in an unfortunate road accident in Doda. We will always remember the outstanding service and supreme sacrifice of our brave soldiers. My deepest condolences to the grieving families.”

The incident once again highlights the dangers associated with travel in the Chenab Valley, particularly in districts such as Doda, Kishtwar and Ramban.

In several stretches, roads run alongside deep gorges

with minimal protective barriers, making even minor driving errors potentially fatal. Road accidents are common in the Chenab Valley, especially during winter and monsoon months.

Over the years, the region has witnessed multiple fatal accidents involving civilian vehicles, buses and security force convoys.

Security forces regularly traverse these routes while moving between forward areas, operational posts and training locations, exposing personnel to risks beyond combat duties. Despite repeated calls for improved road safety measures, including better crash barriers and slope stabilisation, progress has remained slow due to the challenging terrain.

Bangladesh refuses to come ...

Bangladesh, from Page 1

“While our cricketers have worked hard to qualify for the World Cup, the security risk regarding playing in India remains unchanged. This concern is not based on abstract analysis...,” Nazrul said in a press conference while declaring that the country won't play in India.

Bangladesh are due to play four games in India (three in Kolkata and one in Mumbai). It raised security concerns after pacer Mustafizur Rahman was ousted from the IPL on BCCI's instructions.

“It is crucial to weigh the loss of not playing against the potential catastrophe of pushing players, fans, and

journalists into a risky regional political situation. This is a government decision, as the state is responsible for determining whether its citizens face security risks abroad,” Nazrul asserted.

The ICC on Wednesday refused to accept its security concerns, saying that the Bangladesh Cricket Board was repeatedly linking its participation in the tournament to a “single, isolated and unrelated development concerning one of its player's involvement in a domestic league”.

Meanwhile, the ICC on Thursday “expressed satisfaction” with the facilities at the iconic Eden Gardens ahead of the tournament.

◆ WEATHER ◆

Overview: Dry weather prevailed over Coastal Karnataka, South Interior Karnataka and North Interior Karnataka

Forecast Jan 23: Dry weather likely to prevail over the state.

INTERIOR NORTH				
Stations	Max	Min	Rain	
Belagavi	28.2	15.2	00	
Bidar	28.4	14	00	
Vijayapura	28.5	12	00	
Dharwad	28.2	11	00	
Haveri	31	12.4	00	
Kalaburgi	30.8	17.6	00	
Raichur	29.4	18.4	00	
COASTAL				
Honnavar	33.5	17.9	00	
Karwar	34.2	18.4	00	
Shirali	NA	NA	NA	
Mangaluru	32.9	21	00	

INTERIOR SOUTH				
Stations	Max	Min	Rain	
Agumbe	NA	NA	NA	
Bengaluru	27.8	14.7	00	
Ballari	NA	NA	NA	
Chamarajanagar	NA	NA	NA	
Chikkamagaluru	NA	NA	NA	
Chitradurga	29	14.1	00	
Davangere	31	10.5	00	
Hassan	30.5	12.5	00	
Mysuru	29	15	00	
Madikeri	NA	NA	NA	
Kolar	27.2	8.4	00	

OTHER STATIONS				
New Delhi	24.2	6.3	00	
Kolkata	28	14.7	00	
Mumbai	32.1	18.4	00	
Chennai	30.5	20.2	00	
Pune	29	14.5	00	
Hyderabad	28.2	16.7	00	
Thirupuram	33.7	22.4	00	

BANGALORE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED
(Wholly Owned by Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
(CIN-U04010KA2002SGC030438)

TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through KPP portal)

BESCOM invites tender for the following **Enquiry No: BESCOM/2025-26/IND0194(BESCOM/2025-26 BCP-1651)** For Supply of Danger Boards.

Enquiry No: BESCOM/2025-26/IND0193(BESCOM/2025-26 BCP-1650) For Supply of DTC Maintenance boards.

For all the above Works: Bid documents available from **23-01-2026**. Last Date for submission of Bids on **07-02-2026** at **17:15 hrs**. Opening of Bid Document on **09-02-2026** at **11:00 hrs**. The Tenders can be obtained through KPP portal website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**. Aspiring bidders need to register on KPP portal. Further Bidders can take assistance with KPPPP help desk contact numbers (080-46010000, 080-68948777) or email at support@eprochelpdesk.com.

Sd/-
Chief General Manager(Ele.,) Procurement, BESCOM

Government of Karnataka
Office of the Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation And Ground Water Development Division, Ballari

IFT No. EE/MI & GWDD/By/AE-I/2025-26/1851 (Date: 14.01.2026)

TENDER NOTIFICATION (KW-4)

On behalf of Hon'ble Governor of Karnataka the Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation and Ground Water Development Division Ballari invited the tender for the works of under **Head of Account 4702 Plan-APB** and under **Head of Account 4702 Plan-New Tank** works in Vijayanagar Dist., Kudligi Taluk **02 Works in Two Cover System. Minimum Estimated amount put to tender is Rs.413.64 lakhs and Maximum Estimated amount put to tender is Rs.772.15 lakhs** the tenderers should download and submit the tenders from date: **16.01.2026 to 16.02.2026 upto 17.30 hours. Date & Time of opening Technical Bid is on 18.02.2026 at 11.00 hours. Opening of Financial Bid is on 21.02.2026 at 11.00 hours.** Any other information should get by login the website “KPPPP” website <http://kpppp.karnataka.gov.in>

Sd/- Executive Engineer, M.I.&G.W.D.Division, Ballari. DIPR/Ballari/926/KSMCA/2025-26

Government of Karnataka
Department Of Archaeology, Museums And Heritage, Mysore
Karnataka Exhibition Authority Premises, Mysuru-570010,
Tel : 0821-2424673/74, Fax No.0821-2424665,
Email- commr_amh@yahoo.in, Web : <https://archaeology.karnataka.gov.in>,
<https://namkarnataka.in>

Tender Notification Number: DAMH/CWT-28/2025-26 Date: 20.01.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION

On behalf of the Governor, Government of Karnataka, the department of Archaeology, Museum and Heritage, Mysuru has invited the itemwise tender for the works of **& DAMH/2025-26:OW/WORK_INDENT-157,159,162,173,178/Call-2 DAMH/2025-26/SE0029 (Call-2)**, under the standard tender documents **KW-1,2 & 3**. The amount of minimum **Rs. 13.43 lakhs** to Maximum **Rs.83.45 lakhs** kept for these tenders as per Standard Tender bid Document. Tender documents can be obtained through (<https://kpppp.karnataka.gov.in/>) e-portal from date **21.01.2026** onwards.

Last date and time of any Queries for tender	16.01.2026, 17.00 hrs
Last date and time of tender submission	21.01.2026, 16.00 hrs
Opening of Date and Time of Technical bid	23.01.2026, 16.30 hrs
Opening of Date and Time of Financial bid	27.01.2026, 11.00 hrs

Sd/- Commissioner Department of Archaeology, Museums And Heritage, Mysore

DIPR/MYSORE/SHIRDISAI/1553/2025-26

ನಗರಸಭಾ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಶಿರಸಿ (ಉ.ಕ.)
ದೂರವಾಣಿ: 08384-226338 ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್: www.sirsicity.mrc.gov.in
ಇ-ಮೇಲ್: comm_srs@yahoo.com

ಸಂ. ನಸಬಿ/ಸೈದಿ/ಚಿರದ/15ನೇಪಂ/ವಿವ-2025-26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 21.01.2026

ಮರು ಅಲ್ಲಾವದ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆ

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ 1999 ಹಾಗೂ ನಿಯಮಾವಳಿ-2000 ರಂತೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಂದಾಯಿತ ಅರ್ಹ ನೋಂದಾಯಿತ ಏಜೆನ್ಸಿಗಳಿಂದ/ಅಧೀಕೃತ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು/ಅಧೀಕೃತ ಪೂರೈಕೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಚಿರದ ವಾಕ್ಯವೆಂಟ್ **KG-2ರ** ನಿರ್ಮಾಣಗೊಳಪಟ್ಟಂತೆ, **KPP Portal** ನಲ್ಲಿ ರವಿಸ್ತೇಷನ್ ಮಾಡಿದ ನೋಂದಾಯಿತ ಅರ್ಹ ನೋಂದಾಯಿತ ಏಜೆನ್ಸಿಗಳಿಂದ/ಅಧೀಕೃತ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು/ಅಧೀಕೃತ ಪೂರೈಕೆದಾರರಿಂದ (1) **DMA/2025-26/IND5726/CALL-2** (ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ. 66.00 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳು) ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ಚಿರದಗಳನ್ನು **KPP Portal** ಮೂಲಕ ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, **KPP Portal** ನಿಯಮಗಳ ಮತ್ತು ಚಿರದ ಕರಾರುಗಳ ಅನ್ವಯ ಚಿರದ ಘರ್ಮಗಳನ್ನು ಪಡೆಯುವುದು, ಭರ್ತಿ ಮಾಡುವುದು ಮತ್ತು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವುದು.

(1) **KPP Portal** ಮೂಲಕ ಚಿರದಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 31.01.2026 (ಸಂಜೆ 16.00 ಗಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ) **KPP Portal** ಮೂಲಕ ಚಿರದ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 02.02.2026 (ಸಂಜೆ 16.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ) (3) **KPP Portal** ಮೂಲಕ ಚಿರದ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 03.02.2026 (ಸಂಜೆ 16.15 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ) (ರಜಾ ಇದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ಮುಂದಿನ ಕೆಲಸದ ದಿನಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಚಿರದ ತೆರೆಯಲಾಗುವುದು) ಚಿರದನಲ್ಲಿಯ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣಗಳನ್ನು ಹಾಗೂ ಪರಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು **KPP Portal** ಪ್ಲಾಟ್ ಫಾರಂನಲ್ಲಿ www.kpppp.karnataka.gov.in ರಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು ಹಾಗೂ ಕಟೀರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಟ್ಟಿ ಮಾಡಬೇಕನ್ನು ಪಡೆಯತಕ್ಕದ್ದು. ಸಹಿ/- ಪಾಲಾಯಕ್ರುರು, ನಗರಸಭೆ, ಶಿರಸಿ.

DIPR/ADK/KSMCA/979/25-26 dt.22.01.2026

Govt. of Karnataka

District Office, Backward Classes Welfare Department, Mangaluru -575004
e-mail- dobcmakshinakannada@gmail.com Ph.: (0824) 2225078.

BCWD/VNB-/CR-31/2025-26 Date: 22.01.2026

E-Procurement tender notification for Out Source Services for Group-D Posts to the Pre Metric and Post Metric Hostels, Group-C/D Posts for Morari Desai Residential Schools, Group-C/D Posts for Offices come under Backward Classes Welfare Department Dakshina Kannada District for the financial year 2026-27.

E-Procurement tender notification
Calendar of Events

1 Tender Reference No. and date	BCWD/VNB-/CR-38/2024-25, Dt-22-01-2026
2 Amount put to Tender	Rs.9,00,00,000/-
3 Pre bid meeting	30-01-2026 at 11.00 am
4 Last date & Time for submission of Tender	23-02-2026 upto 5.00 pm
5 Date & Time of opening of Technical bid	25-02-2026 at 11.00 am
6 Date & Time of opening of Financial Bid	To be intimated qualified bidder
7 EMD Amount	Rs.13,50,000/-
8 Venue of opening of tenders & address for communication.	DISTRICT OFFICER, BACKWARD CLASSES WELFARE DEPARTMENT, BEJAI-KAPIKAD, ANEGUNDI ROAD, D.K. District, Mangalore Ph:-0824-2225078

Interested eligible bidders registered in e-procurement portal can download the bid documents by visiting the web site <https://kpp.karnataka.gov.in>

Sd/-
District Officer
Backward Classes welfare Department
Dakshina Kannada, Mangaluru

DIPR/DK/MPL/1457/25-26

KARNATAKA RURAL INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Gramaenabhiruddhi Bhavana, 4th & 5th Floor, Ananda Rao Circle, Bengaluru - 560 009.

No.: KRIDL/WKS/TND/KVAFSU/2025-26 Date: 22.01.2026

SHORT-TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

On behalf of Managing Director, KRIDL, Chief Engineer (Bengaluru), KRIDL, Invites e-tender through e-Procurement portal for the works of “Construction of Girls Hostel at Veterinary College, Bidar” and “Construction of Girls Hostel at Veterinary College, Shivamogga” for KVAFSU.

Interested Firms to participate in the tender can view, download and apply only through the e-Governance Secretariat **New website: www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in**. Tenders must be electronically submitted (online through internet) within the date and time through E-Procurement portal. **e-Proc Helpdesk Contact: +91 9240214000, +91 9240214001.**

Sl. No.	Particulars of Tender	Approximate Project Cost in Rs. Lakhs	Firm has to submit EMD Amount in Rs. Lakhs
1	Construction of Girls Hostel at Veterinary College, Bidar for KVAFSU.	339.83	5.09
2	Construction of Girls Hostel at Veterinary College, Shivamogga for KVAFSU.	369.06	5.54

➤ Last date and time for enquiry is **09.02.2026 up to 14.00 Hrs**
➤ Last date and time for receipt of tender **09.02.2026 up to 15.00 Hrs**
➤ Date of Opening of Technical Bid is on **11.02.2026 at 11.00 Hrs**
➤ Date of Opening of Financial Bid is on **13.02.2026 at 15.00 Hrs**

For further details please contact:
Chief Engineer (Bengaluru)
KARNATAKA RURAL INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT LTD, Bengaluru-09. Phone: 080-28015604 / +91 82176 33267 / +91 9972959989
Email: tenderworks@kridl.net/ ddworks@kridl@gmail.com
Sd/- Chief Engineer (Bengaluru)

BENGALURU CENTRAL CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer, Chikkapete Division, No.194, T Mariyappa Road, Opp to Lalbagh South Gate, Siddapura Circle, Bengaluru-560 011.
No:EE/CKPE-PROC/10/2025-26 Date: 22-01-2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION

Bengaluru Central City Corporation invites short term request proposal for Long Term leasing of BCCC Vacant Corner land plot on JC road, Bengaluru for Development of Commercial Establishment (3rd Call)

Following are the Events of Bid Process:

1	Date of Commencement of Download of Document from Kpp Portal Website http://kpppp.karnataka.gov.in From 23-01-2026
2	Last Date and Time for uploading Online queries in KPP pportal: 28-01-2026 at 2:00 pm.
3	Date and Time of Pre-bid Meeting: 28-01-2026 at 3:00pm at the following venue: Executive Engineer, Chikkapete Division, No.194, T Mariyappa road, Opp to lalbagh south Gate, Siddapura Circle, Jayanagara
4	Last Date and Time for uploading of RFP in KPP Portal: 30-01-2026 at 4:00 pm.
5	Date and Time of Technical Bid opening of RFP 31-01-2026 at 4:30 pm.
6	Place of Opening of Applications : Online at KPP Portal
7	Address for Communication: Executive Engineer, Chikkapete Division, No.194, T Mariyappa road, Opp to lalbagh south Gate, Siddapura Circle,

1. Tender documents may be downloaded from the website <http://kpppp.karnataka.gov.in>
2. Other details can be seen in the tender documents.

Sd/- Executive Engineer Chikkapete Division

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
(www.kpwd.gov.in)

Office of the Executive Engineer, PWD Bangalore Division, 2nd Floor, PWD Annexure Building, K.R. Circle, Bangalore - 01 Telephone No. 080-22133370, Email ID: eePWDbangdn@yahoo.com E-Portal : <https://kpppp.karnataka.gov.in/#/portal/portal-home>

Short Term Tender Notification No. 50/2025-26 DATED: 21.01.2026

Item-rate tenders, for the work in PWD, Doddaballapura Sub Division under this office noted below, are invited by the undersigned on behalf of the Governor of Karnataka in accordance with Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement rules 2000 and as per Standard Tender Documents for procurement of works from the contractors registered in K.P.W.D. as per KPPPP.

Tender Notification are Published for 01 Work **(Rs. 30.00 Lakhs)** Details of the tender works can be obtained from the above Office during office hours on working days. EMD & Tender processing fees are mentioned in KPP portal.

1. Tenders must be submitted online through KPP portal on or before **4.00 PM on Dated: 29.01.2026**
2. The opening of tenders through KPP portal on Dated: **30.01.2026 at 4.30 PM** or further date and time will be Intimate.

For more details contact this office. **Sd/- Executive Engineer PWD, Bangalore Division, Bangalore.**

DIPR/CP/5157/Zen/2025-26

SIR not arbitrary, poll panel tells SC

Court says EC order does not clearly cite illegal migration as basis

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Election Commission on Thursday told the Supreme Court that there was nothing manifestly arbitrary in its conduct of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in several states, and that no individual affected by it had approached the court.

“There may be errors here and there, but the exercise is bona fide,” senior advocate Rakesh Dwivedi told a bench of Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi. He said after the SIR in 2003, but with an amendment, a person was required to prove that both parents were born in India, as cross-border migration had increased.

“The Amendment Act of 2003 was passed when Atal Bihari Vajpayee was the prime minister. There was complete

EC'S DEFENCE

- Election Commission says only political leaders, NGOs and private individuals filed petitions, not affected voters
- EC claims attacking it has become a ‘fashion’, statistics can be tweaked to fit narratives
- Top court hearing batch of pleas against SIR in several states, including Bihar

support from both sides and no opposition, which shows the amendment was desirable,” he said.

Justice Bagchi questioned whether the amended citizenship framework was a trigger for the present SIR, noting that the EC’s order did not explicitly cite trans-border or illegal migration as its basis.

“The word ‘migration’ refers to lawful movement. Inter-state migration is a constitutional right,” Justice Bagchi observed, adding that if the SIR was being defended solely as a roll revision exercise after two decades, the larger question of citizenship determination might not arise at all.

Dwivedi responded that the amendment had never been operationalised earlier and that the present SIR provided an opportunity to take note of the changed legal framework.

He claimed that no individuals directly affected by the SIR exercise had approached the court. “You see who the petitioners are? Leaders of political parties, private individuals and NGOs. They are only raising a hue and cry, saying they represent unnamed individuals,” Dwivedi said.

With regard to questions on whether due process was followed in the exercise, he said, “Now even (US) President Donald Trump can suddenly remove the President of Venezuela, and now he wants Greenland—where is the due process in that?”

(With PTI inputs)

Tagore too would have been summoned: Mamata

Had Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore been alive today, perhaps he too would have been served notice to appear before the EC officials in West Bengal to defend his right to vote, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said on Thursday, reports *DHNS* from Kolkata.

She said that the Nobel laureate polymath would have been possibly identified as a case of ‘logical discrepancy’ by the officials and summoned to explain the difference between his surname ‘Thakur’ and its anglicised form ‘Tagore’. The CM referred to the hypothetical situation while criticising the EC for issuing notices to a large number of voters after the publication of the draft electoral rolls.

India's entry Homebound out of Oscars race

NEW DELHI, PTI: Filmmaker Neeraj Ghaywan’s acclaimed drama *Homebound* is out of the Oscars 2026, failing to get a nomination in the best international feature film category.

The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences announced the nominations for the 98th Academy Awards in Los Angeles on Thursday. India’s entry was in the Academy’s shortlist of 15 in the category but couldn’t make it to the final five.

Inspired by an article headlined *Taking Amrit Home* by journalist Basharat Peer in *The New York Times*, the film stars Ishaan Khatter, Vishal Jethwa and Janhvi Kapoor in lead roles. It chronicles the childhood friendship between a Muslim and a Dalit, who aspire to join the police force in search of dignity and social acceptance long denied to them because of their surnames. Hollywood filmmaker Martin Scorsese is attached to the project as an executive producer.

The 98th Academy Awards ceremony will be held on March 15.

Only three Indian films have made it to the last round — Mehboob Khan’s *Mother India* (1957), Mira Nair’s *Salaam Bombay!* (1988) and Ashutosh Gowariker’s *Lagaan* (2001).



राष्ट्रीय वायुनौतिक प्रयोगशालाएं
Council of Scientific and Industrial Research
NATIONAL AEROSPACE LABORATORIES
पी बी सी 1779, एअरपोर्ट रोड, कोडिहल्ली, बंगलूरु - 560 017
P B No. 1779, HAL Airport Road, Kodihalli, Bengaluru - 560017, India

ADVT. No. 02/2026/APP

CSIR-NAL invites applications from the ITI passed eligible candidates for a Walk-in-Interview for Apprenticeship Trainee from 04.02.2026 to 05.02.2026.

For complete details of advertisement and walk-in-interview schedule, please visit www.nal.res.in.

Sd/-
Sr. Controller of Administration



DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION (PRE-UNIVERSITY)
Office of the Director, (Pre-University), Sampige Road, 18th Cross, Malleshwaram, Bengaluru-560012.
No. DPUE-EST100TH/286/2025 (1958185) Date: 22.01.2026

BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through KPP Portal Only)

Online Tenders are invited through KPPP Portal from eligible Tenderers for supply of below mentioned Goods.

Name of the Scheme: **Supply and Installation of LED Projectors to 74 Adarsha Government Pre-University Colleges.** Approx. Amount: **Rs. 40.70 Lakhs.** Last date for receipt of Tender: **06.02.2026 up to 5.30 PM.** Website Address: <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in>

Note: (1) Detailed Tender Notice, Technical specifications and other conditions can be obtained in the above mentioned website. (2) In future any Corrigendum Notices will not be published in newspapers and will only be published in the website.

Sd/- Director, Department of School Education, (Pre-University)



NATIONAL SEEDS CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Government of India Undertaking)
Regional Office : Bangalore - 24, (CIN No.: U 74899 DL 1963 GOI 003913)
Phone : 99437 72209. E-mail : rm.bangalore@indiaseeds.com, nsbangalore.mktg@gmail.com Website : www.indiaseeds.com

No. : 7(4)/Tender/Mktg/NSC-BNG/2025-26 Date : 21-01-2026

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

National Seeds Corporation Limited, Regional Office, Bangalore invites EOI through online for empanelment of reputed Seed Producers for Supply of Certified Seeds of Soyabean and Truthfully Labelled **Seeds of Groundnut** during Kharif-26 For further details visit our Website : www.indiaseeds.com. EOI Document can be Downloaded from Website : <https://indiaseeds.envida.com> from 23-01-2026, 13.00 hrs. Last Date for Submission of Online Tender is 06-02-2026 till 14.00 hrs.

Sd/- Regional Manager,
National Seeds Corporation, Bangalore.



DEPARTMENT OF STAMPS AND REGISTRATION
Office of the Inspector General of Registration and Commissioner of Stamps
Kandaya Bhavan, 8th Floor, K.G. Road, Bengaluru-560009
Tel : 080-22220436, Email: aigrcomp@karnataka.gov.in

No. Comp/69/2025-26 Date: 21-01-2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION

Tenders are invited by the Department of Stamps and Registration for “**Selection of an agency for Supply, Installation, Configuration and Maintenance of Hardware, Software and Network Equipment for Department of Stamps and Registration**”. The tender forms, terms and conditions may be obtained through e-Procurement portal <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> The last date for submitting completed tender forms is **21-02-2026 till 5.00 pm**. For further details please contact **Assistant Inspector General of Registration (Computers) & Project Director Kaveri** (e-mail: aigrcomp@karnataka.gov.in).

Sd/- Inspector General of Registration and Commissioner of Stamps, Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/ICY/5172/2025-26

Republic Day tableaux to showcase culture, infra

Maritime history, Vande Mataram legacy to be displayed

AMRITA MADHUKALYA
NEW DELHI, DHNS

From a 5th-century CE-stitched ship named INSV Kaundinya to Bihar’s superfood makhana, from Bikaner’s Utsa Art to terracotta art from Assam’s Asharikandi, the displays at the Republic Day tableaux this year span a wide variety of displays.

Among the 30 tableaux — including 16 from states — are one celebrating 150 years of Vande Mataram by the Min-



Operation Sindoor-themed tableaux on display during a press preview before the Republic Day parade, in New Delhi, on Thursday. PTI

istry of Culture, India’s first digital museum dedicated to tribal heroic leaders by the Chhattisgarh government, and one displaying the Kochi Water Metro by Kerala.

The Navy will showcase

frigates INS Himgiri, and INS Udayagiri, among others.

Assam’s tableau will have a terracotta doll made in Asharikandi, the country’s terracotta and pottery craft cluster. The art had received the GI tag in 2024. The tableau will also feature the Mayurpokhi boat.

Kerala will display the Kochi Water Metro, the country’s first integrated, electric-powered water-based public transport system. The state will also showcase its achievement of 100% digital literacy.

Bihar’s display will focus on the labour-intensive process of producing makhana or foxnuts, a superfood cultivated in water.

Rajasthan’s display will focus on the 16th-century Utsa art, which originated in Bikaner and uses embossed designs made of pure gold leaves.

The art was given the GI tag in 2023. The tableau will also display camels and traditional Rajasthani music and dance.

The Culture Ministry will display a tableau celebrating 150 years of Vande Mataram. It will feature the original manuscript of the national song atop a tractor, with the vehicle surrounded by folk artists from different regions.

The Chhattisgarh government, in its tableaux, will display the country’s first Tribal Digital Museum, inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The tableau will feature Veer Gundadhur, the hero of the historic Bhumkal Rebellion of 1910, as well as Veer Narayan Singh, the first martyr of Chhattisgarh who played a significant role in the First War of Indian Independence in 1857.

This regime fears the sound of dissent: Raj

ASHWIN B M
KOZHIKODE, DHNS

In a charged discussion on the criminalisation of political disagreement, acclaimed actor and activist Prakash Raj on Thursday took a swipe at the Union government, labelling it a regime that was systematically silencing the voices of those who dared to ask questions.

At the inaugural Kerala Literature Festival (KLF) 2026 session titled “Criminalising Dissent! Who Gets Locked Up For Speaking Out?”, Raj was joined by investigative journalist Josy Joseph in a dialogue that traversed the arrests of

activists Sonam Wangchuk and Umar Khalid, the capitulation of mainstream media, and the perceived erosion of judicial independence.

Responding to Joseph’s question about the scores of legal cases filed against him, he said, “I’ve been called anti-national, a Periyarist, and anti-Hindu. These cases are meant to tire you out or waste your time, but they don’t know we are made of different stuff.”

Raj spoke about Ladakhi educator Sonam Wangchuk and activist Umar Khalid. He recounted his journey to Ladakh to support Wangchuk’s pro-



Prakash Raj

test against corporate interests in the fragile Himalayan ecosystem.

“They have jailed Wangchuk in Rajasthan, far from his territory, behind a three-layered wall where even his wife cannot meet him. Does anyone believe he is a terrorist?” he said.

Similarly, he questioned the use of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) against Khalid: “When did blocking a road during a CAA protest become a terrorist activity? This ‘Maha Prabhu’ (referring to Prime Minister Narendra Modi) sitting in power does not like the sound

of dissent.”

The actor expressed deep concern over the state of Indian institutions. While he acknowledged that previous governments had misused the police, he lamented that the judiciary, once the “final hope”, was now viewed by many as a “joke.”

“The trial should be for the conscience of the judges, not just the criminals,” he noted.

Urging the public to stop being “footballs” in the match of electoral democracy, Raj concluded by calling for a more politically active citizenry.

“We are very happy talking in small groups, but we must take this awareness to our neighbourhoods,” he said.

Six dead, 5 hurt in blast at steel plant in Ch'garh

BALODABAZAR, PTI: Six workers were killed and five sustained burn injuries when hot ash fell on them following an explosion at a steel plant in Chhattisgarh’s Balodabazar-Bhatapara district on Thursday morning, officials said.

The incident occurred around 9.40 am at Real Ispat and Power Ltd located in Bakulahi village, district collector Deepak Soni said. Eyewitnesses said the bodies of the victims, most of them from Bihar and Jharkhand, were charred.



ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಕೈಗಾರಿಕಾ ಪ್ರದೇಶಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಮಂಡಳಿ
(ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಅಧೀನ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ)
ವಿಶೇಷ ಭೂಸ್ವಾಧೀನಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಕಛೇರಿ-1, ಕೆ.ಎಂ.ಎಡಿ.ಬಿ (ಬಿಎಂಐಸಿಎ) ಮತ್ತು ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ, ನೆಲಮಂಗಲ
ನಂ.14/3, 1ನೇ ಮಹಡಿ, ಮಹರ್ಷಿ ಆರವಿಂದ ಭವನ, ನೃಪತುಂಗರಸ್ತೆ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ದೂರವಾಣಿ : 080-22236840 ಇ-ಮೇಲ್: slao1bmcp@kiadb.in
ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ : ಕೆಎಂಎಡಿಬಿ/ಎಲ್-ಎಕ್ಸೋ/ಬೆಂ.ಗ್ರಾ.ನೇ/1605/2025-26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 19.01.2026

ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ನೋಟೀಸ್ (ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಕೈಗಾರಿಕಾ ಪ್ರದೇಶಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಕಾಯ್ದೆ 1966ರ ವಿಧಿ 28(1)ರ ಅನ್ವಯ)

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ, ನೆಲಮಂಗಲ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು, ಸೋಂಪುರ ಹೋಬಳಿ, ಹನುಮಂತಪುರ ಮತ್ತು ತ್ಯಾಮಗೊಂಡ್ಲು ಹೋಬಳಿ, ಬಿದಲೂರು, ಕೋಡಿಪಾಳ್ಯ ಗ್ರಾಮಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ಸರ್ವೆ ನಂಬರ್ ಜಮೀನುಗಳನ್ನು ಕೈಗಾರಿಕಾ ಪ್ರದೇಶದ ಸ್ಥಾಪನೆಗಾಗಿ ಕೆಎಡಿಬಿ ಕಾಯ್ದೆ 1966 ಕೆಲಂ 28(1)ರಡಿ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಸಿಎ 43 ಎಸ್‌ಪಿ‌ಕ್ಯೂ 2024 ದಿ:14.11.2025ರ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಹೊರಡಿಸಿ, ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಪತ್ರ ದಿ:24.11.2025ರಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಿದೆ. ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಕೈಗಾರಿಕಾ ಪ್ರದೇಶಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಕಾಯ್ದೆ 1966ರ ಕೆಲಂ 28(1) ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಈ ಕೆಳಗೆ ವಿವರಿಸಿರುವ ಸ್ಥಳಗಳು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸರ್ಕಾರಕ್ಕೆ ಎಲ್ಲಾ ರೀತಿಯ ಬಯೋಧಾರಗಳಿಂದ ವಿಮುಕ್ತಗೊಂಡು ಸರ್ಕಾರಕ್ಕೆ ನಿಷ್ಕರ್ತಗೊಂಡಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

ಭೂಸ್ವಾಧೀನಕ್ಕೆ ಒಳಪಟ್ಟ ಜಮೀನುಗಳ ಸರ್ವೆ ನಂಬರ್ ವಿವರಗಳು

ಕ್ರ. ಸಂ	ಖಾತೆದಾರರ ಹೆಸರು	ಅನುಭವದಾರರ ಹೆಸರು	ಸರ್ವೆ ನಂ.	ಭೂಸ್ವಾಧೀನಕ್ಕೊಳಪಟ್ಟ ವಿಸ್ತೀರ್ಣ		
				ಐನು ಎ-ಗುಂ	ಎರಾಬು ಎ-ಗುಂ	ಬಾಕಿ ಎ-ಗುಂ
ಗ್ರಾಮ: ಹನುಮಂತಪುರ ಹೋಬಳಿ: ಸೋಂಪುರ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು: ನೆಲಮಂಗಲ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ: ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ						
1	ರಾಜಮ್ಮ ಕೋಂ ವೀರಣ್ಣ, ಚನ್ನಬಸಮ್ಮ ಕೋಂ ಮಹದೇವಯ್ಯ	ರಾಜಮ್ಮ ಕೋಂ ವೀರಣ್ಣ, ಚನ್ನಬಸಮ್ಮ ಕೋಂ ಮಹದೇವಯ್ಯ	11/2	1-05	0-01	1-04
2	ಸುನಿತ ಹೆಚ್ ಬಿ ಬಿನ್ ಬಸವರಾಜು	ಸುನಿತ ಹೆಚ್ ಬಿ ಬಿನ್ ಬಸವರಾಜು	11/10	0-11.12	0-00.04	0-11.08
			ಒಟ್ಟು	1-16.12	0-01.04	1-15.08
ಗ್ರಾಮ: ಬಿದಲೂರು ಹೋಬಳಿ: ತ್ಯಾಮಗೊಂಡ್ಲು ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು: ನೆಲಮಂಗಲ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ: ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ						
1	ಸಾವಿತ್ರಮ್ಮ ಹೆಚ್ ಕೋಂ ಈಶ್ವರಪ್ಪ ಹೆಚ್ ಎಂ ಕೋಂ ಲಕ್ಷ್ಮಯ್ಯ	ಸಾವಿತ್ರಮ್ಮ ಹೆಚ್ ಕೋಂ ಈಶ್ವರಪ್ಪ ಹೆಚ್ ಎಂ ಕೋಂ ಲಕ್ಷ್ಮಯ್ಯ	82/6ಎ	1-00	-	1-00
2	ಶಿವಕುಮಾರ್ ಗೌಡ ಆರ್ ಬಿನ್ ಕೆಂಚನಗೌಡ	ಶಿವಕುಮಾರ್ ಗೌಡ ಆರ್ ಬಿನ್ ಕೆಂಚನಗೌಡ	83/1	1-17.08	0-01	1-16.08
3	ಆರ್ ಶಿವಕುಮಾರ್ ಗೌಡ ಬಿನ್ ಕೆಂಚನಗೌಡ	ಆರ್ ಶಿವಕುಮಾರ್ ಗೌಡ ಬಿನ್ ಕೆಂಚನಗೌಡ	83/4	1-17.08	0-01	1-16.08
4	ನರಸಮ್ಮ ಕೋಂ ದೊಡ್ಡಗಂಗಯ್ಯ	ನರಸಮ್ಮ ಕೋಂ ದೊಡ್ಡಗಂಗಯ್ಯ	91/29	0-10	-	0-10
			ಒಟ್ಟು	4-05	0-02	4-03
ಗ್ರಾಮ: ಕೋಡಿಪಾಳ್ಯ ಹೋಬಳಿ: ತ್ಯಾಮಗೊಂಡ್ಲು ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು: ನೆಲಮಂಗಲ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ: ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ						
1	ಚನ್ನಲಿಂಗಪ್ಪ ಬಿನ್ ಲೇಟ್ ಪುಟ್ಟಮಲ್ಲಯ್ಯ, ರಾಜಶೇಖರ್ ಬಿನ್ ಲೇಟ್ ವೀರಭದ್ರಯ್ಯ, ಸಿದ್ದಲಿಂಗಪ್ಪ ಬಿನ್ ಲೇಟ್ ವೀರಭದ್ರಯ್ಯ	ಚನ್ನಲಿಂಗಪ್ಪ ಬಿನ್ ಲೇಟ್ ಪುಟ್ಟಮಲ್ಲಯ್ಯ, ರಾಜಶೇಖರ್ ಬಿನ್ ಲೇಟ್ ವೀರಭದ್ರಯ್ಯ, ಸಿದ್ದಲಿಂಗಪ್ಪ ಬಿನ್ ಲೇಟ್ ವೀರಭದ್ರಯ್ಯ	28/1	2-03	0-02	2-01
2	ಎಂ ಎಸ್ ಸುಂದರ್, ಎಂ ಎಸ್ ಪ್ರಕಾಶ್	ಎಂ ಎಸ್ ಸುಂದರ್, ಎಂ ಎಸ್ ಪ್ರಕಾಶ್	28/2	0-37	0-01	0-36
3	ಚನ್ನಲಿಂಗಪ್ಪ ಬಿನ್ ಲೇಟ್ ಪುಟ್ಟಮಲ್ಲಯ್ಯ, ಲೋಕೇಶ್ ಬಿನ್ ಲೇಟ್ ವೀರಭದ್ರಯ್ಯ	ಚನ್ನಲಿಂಗಪ್ಪ ಬಿನ್ ಲೇಟ್ ಪುಟ್ಟಮಲ್ಲಯ್ಯ, ಲೋಕೇಶ್ ಬಿನ್ ಲೇಟ್ ವೀರಭದ್ರಯ್ಯ	28/3	0-13	-	0-13
4	ಎಸ್ ಪ್ರಸಾದ್ ಬಿನ್ ಶಿವಣ್ಣ	ಎಸ್ ಪ್ರಸಾದ್ ಬಿನ್ ಶಿವಣ್ಣ	28/11	0-08	-	0-08
5	ಎಂ ಎಸ್ ಪ್ರಕಾಶ್ ಬಿನ್ ಸಿ ವಿ ಮರಿಮಲ್ಲಪ್ಪ	ಎಂ ಎಸ್ ಪ್ರಕಾಶ್ ಬಿನ್ ಸಿ ವಿ ಮರಿಮಲ್ಲಪ್ಪ	28/12	1-14	0-01	1-13
6	ಆರ್ ವಿಜಯಕುಮಾರ್ ಬಿನ್ ರುದ್ರಯ್ಯ	ಆರ್ ವಿಜಯಕುಮಾರ್ ಬಿನ್ ರುದ್ರಯ್ಯ	28/14	0-08	-	0-08
7	ಮಂಜುನಾಥ ಬಿನ್ ಲೇಟ್ ಸದಾಶಿವಯ್ಯ	ಮಂಜುನಾಥ ಬಿನ್ ಲೇಟ್ ಸದಾಶಿವಯ್ಯ	28/15	0-05	-	0-05
8	ಚಂದ್ರಯ್ಯ ಬಿನ್ ಮಲ್ಲಯ್ಯ	ಚಂದ್ರಯ್ಯ ಬಿನ್ ಮಲ್ಲಯ್ಯ	28/16	0-19	-	0-19
9	ಕೆ ಎಸ್ ಕೃಪಾರುದ್ರೇಶ್ ಬಿನ್ ಲೇಟ್ ಕೆ ಹೆಚ್ ಶಶಿಧರ್	ಕೆ ಎಸ್ ಕೃಪಾರುದ್ರೇಶ್ ಬಿನ್ ಲೇಟ್ ಕೆ ಹೆಚ್ ಶಶಿಧರ್	28/17	1-05	0-01	1-04
			ಒಟ್ಟು	6-32	0-05	6-27

ಫೋರ್ವಾರ್ಡ್

ಕ್ರ. ಸಂ.	ಗ್ರಾಮದ ಹೆಸರು	ವಿಸ್ತೀರ್ಣ		
		ಐನು (ಎ-ಗುಂ)	ಎರಾಬು (ಎ-ಗುಂ)	ಬಾಕಿ (ಎ-ಗುಂ)
1	ಹನುಮಂತಪುರ	1-16.12	0-01.04	1-15.08
2	ಬಿದಲೂರು	4-05	0-02	4-03
3	ಕೋಡಿಪಾಳ್ಯ	6-32	0-05	6-27
	ಒಟ್ಟು	12-13.12	0-08.04	12-05.08

ಈ ಮೇಲ್ಕಂಡ ಜಮೀನಿನ ಖಾತೆದಾರರು/ಅನುಭವದಾರರು ಹಾಗೂ ಹಿತಾಸಕ್ತಿದಾರರಿಗೆ ಈ ಮೂಲಕ ತಿಳಿಯಪಡಿಸುವುದೇನೆಂದರೆ, ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಪ್ರದೇಶಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಕಾಯ್ದೆ 1966ರ ವಿಧಿ 28(2)ರ ಮೇರೆ ಅಧಿಸೂಚಿತ ಖಾತೆದಾರರಿಗೆ/ಅನುಭವದಾರರಿಗೆ ತಿಳುವಳಿಕೆ ನೋಟೀಸುಗಳನ್ನು ಹೊರಡಿಸಿ ಜಾರಿ ಮಾಡಲಾಗಿದೆ ಹಾಗೂ ನೋಂದಾಯಿತ ಅಂಚೆ ಮೂಲಕ ರವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಮೇಲ್ಕಂಡ ಜಮೀನಿನ ಖಾತೆದಾರರು/ಹಕ್ಕಿದಾರರು ಈ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಯನ್ನು ಕೆ.ಎಂ.ಎಡಿ. ಕಾಯ್ದೆ ವಿಧಿ 28(2)ರ ಮೇರೆ ತಿಳುವಳಿಕೆ ನೋಟೀಸು ಎಂದು ಪರಿಗಣಿಸತಕ್ಕದ್ದು.

ಪ್ರಸ್ತುತ ಭೂಸ್ವಾಧೀನ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆಗೆ ಅಕ್ಷೇಪಣೆಗಳೇನಾದರೂ ಇದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ಭೂಮಾಲೀಕರು/ಹಿತಾಸಕ್ತಿ ಉಳ್ಳವರು ತಮ್ಮ ಅಕ್ಷೇಪಣೆಗಳನ್ನು ರಾಜ್ಯಪತ್ರದಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಗೊಂಡ 30 ದಿನಗಳೊಳಗಾಗಿ ಅಗತ್ಯ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳೊಂದಿಗೆ ಮುದ್ದಾಗಿ ಅಥವಾ ಅವರ ಪರವಾಗಿ ಅಧಿಕಾರ ಪಡೆದವರು ಈ ಕಛೇರಿಗೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ತಿಳಿಸಿದೆ. ಅವಧಿ ಮೀರಿ ಬರುವ ಅಕ್ಷೇಪಣೆಗಳನ್ನು ಪರಿಗಣಿಸಲಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ ಎಂಬುದಾಗಿ ಈ ಮೂಲಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕರ ಗಮನಕ್ಕೆ ತರಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಮೇಲ್ಕಂಡ ಗ್ರಾಮಗಳ ಜಮೀನುಗಳ ವಿಚಾರಣೆಯನ್ನು ವಿಶೇಷ ಭೂಸ್ವಾಧೀನಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಕಛೇರಿ-1 (ಬಿಎಂಐಸಿಎ) ಮತ್ತು ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ, ನೆಲಮಂಗಲ, ಕೆಎಂಎಡಿಬಿ, ನಂ.14/3, ಸಿ.ಎಫ್.ಸಿ. ಕಟ್ಟಡ, ಮಹರ್ಷಿ ಆರವಿಂದ ಭವನ, 1ನೇ ಮಹಡಿ, ನೃಪತುಂಗ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು-560 001 ಇಲ್ಲಿ ನಿಗದಿಪಡಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಸದರಿ ದಿನಾಂಕದಂದು ದಾಖಲಾತಿಗಳೊಂದಿಗೆ ಲಿಖಿತವಾಗಿ ಅಥವಾ ಮುದ್ದಾಗಿ ಹಾಜರಾಗಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಸೂಚಿಸಿದೆ.

ಕ್ರ. ಸಂ.	ಗ್ರಾಮದ ಹೆಸರು	ಗೆಜೆಟ್ ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ.		ಸ.ನಂ.		ವಿಚಾರಣಾ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಸಮಯ
		ಇಂದ	ವರೆಗೆ	ಇಂದ	ವರೆಗೆ	
1	ಹನುಮಂತಪುರ	1	2	11/2	11/10	21.02.2026 ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ
2	ಬಿದಲೂರು	1	4	82/6ಎ	91/29	
3	ಕೋಡಿಪಾಳ್ಯ	1	9	28/1	28/17	

ವಾಣಸಂಖ್ಯೆ/ಉನಿ-ಸಿ/5156/ಕೆಎಸ್‌ಎಂಐ/2025-26 ಸಿ/ಒ ವಿಶೇಷ ಭೂಸ್ವಾಧೀನಾಧಿಕಾರಿ-1, ಕೆಎಂಎಡಿಬಿ (ಬಿಎಂಐಸಿಎ) ಮತ್ತು ಬೆಂ.ಗ್ರಾಂ, ನೆಲಮಂಗಲ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು



DECCAN HERALD

ESTABLISHED 1948

Governors and their contentious conduct

It appears that no customary address by a Governor to the legislative assembly in an Opposition-ruled state is now complete without an act of impropriety – refusal to read out the address, skipping parts of it or adding some to the original text, even dramatic walkouts, like Karnataka Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot's, on Thursday. Gehlot chose not to read the full text prepared by the state government and limited his address to three lines from the draft. The governor's action conflicts with a constitutional convention and has been described by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah as an insult to the House. In Tamil Nadu, Governor RN Ravi, who has been a serial violator of gubernatorial norms, also declined to read out the drafted address and walked out of the Assembly on Tuesday. Rajendra Arlekar, the Governor of Kerala, skipped some sentences in his address and made additions of his own. The Assembly, opposing the changes, resolved that the address as prepared by the Cabinet would be on record.

Controversies around the customary address have added theatrics to the ongoing tussle between governors and state governments over issues such as assent to bills and appointment of university vice-chancellors. At the centre of this confrontation is the governors' tendency to undermine their functions as a constitutional link between the Centre and the states, and to act as political agents of the Central government. That these incidents occur only in states with non-BJP governments tells the story.

These annual shows of disruption present the governors and the constitutional office they hold in a poor light. They also deny the right of the legislative assembly to listen to the government. The Constitution does not provide a choice to the Governor in this regard. It has been asserted by several constitutional authorities that the Governor is required to read out the exact text of the speech that is prepared by the state government, spelling out its views and policies. The state government has the right to criticise the Central government, and the Governor has no authority to disapprove of this criticism. An obstructionist office that is guided by political interests and gets in the way of an elected state government has no place in a federal system. Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin has suggested that a constitutional amendment be made to scrap the practice of the Governor addressing the first session of the state assembly. This may be considered favourably as it will spare the people of the unsavoury annual spectacle of governors breaking established conventions.

In the breaking of assembly address conventions, there is a troubling politicisation of a ceremonial duty

A call for reform in higher education

The Supreme Court's directions issued while considering a report on student distress and suicides in universities highlight serious concerns around mental health and the gaps in supporting infrastructure in India's higher education institutions (HEIs). Based on an interim report by a Court-constituted task force, these directions are aimed at establishing preventive institutional mechanisms for student well-being. The Court noted that rigid attendance policies, issues related to curricula and exam assessment, inadequate placement processes, faculty shortage, and other factors create mental stress for students that needs to be addressed to ensure a productive academic life.

The Court issued the directions by invoking its powers under Article 142 of the Constitution. Seven of its nine directions pertain to record-keeping, reporting, and tracking suicides, while the other two are about filling up vacancies. The Court directed that vacant faculty positions, in both public and private HEIs, should be filled within four months. Appointments of Vice-Chancellors and Registrars must be made within a month of the posts falling vacant, as a matter of practice. It was pointed out in the task force's report that, according to the National Education Policy (NEP), leadership positions in HEIs should not be kept vacant for long periods, and the tenures of outgoing and incoming vice-chancellors may overlap for some time. The backlog of scholarship disbursements should also be cleared in four months. The Court observed that the "massification" and "privatisation" of higher education have placed India second globally in student enrolment, but the rush has left behind a trail of deaths, distress, vacancies, and exploitation.

Half of the top positions in the HEIs are considered vacant. They should be filled without delay, but the question that follows the Court's intervention is whether the appointments can be made in the short period prescribed for them. Appointments to top positions, including Vice-Chancellors and Registrars, are caught in a face-off between governments and Governors in states ruled by the Opposition parties. They involve legal and political challenges. Appointments of faculty members have to be made in compliance with UGC guidelines, and that cannot be done in a hurry, violating established norms. Budgetary considerations also influence these appointments. Qualified candidates for both administrative and faculty positions are not always readily available, especially on short notice. These are challenges, but there is a strong intent in the Court's directions that, with prompt follow-through action, can be a first step towards comprehensive reform in the sector.

Student well-being is at the centre of the SC's intervention that prioritises filling vacant positions

Strategic drift deepens India's defence vulnerabilities

Gaps in policy and procurement must not be allowed to weaken deterrence in a volatile neighbourhood

RAJAT PANDIT

India's systemic inability to formulate and then execute long-term plans to assiduously build military capabilities to tackle its two-front collusive threat from China and Pakistan is evident once again. The defence ministry's ongoing move to finalise the acquisition of 114 French-origin Rafale fighters under the multi-role fighter aircraft (MRFA) project, with the bulk of them to be built domestically, is a stark reminder of the country's lack of strategic planning over the years.

A similar plan to induct 126 fighters under the medium multi-role combat aircraft (MMRCA) project was scrapped in 2015 after a long-drawn competition, in which the Rafale was eventually selected over the F/A-18 and F-16 (US), Gripen (Sweden), MiG-35 (Russia), and Eurofighter Typhoon jets.

The Indian Air Force (IAF) had first projected the requirement for 126 MMRCA way back in 2000, for which the global tender was finally floated in 2007 by the UPA-2 government. After the other contenders were ejected following technical evaluation, the Rafale had then edged out the Eurofighter in the ensuing commercial evaluation. The final negotiations, however, deadlocked over French aviation major Dassault's refusal to stand full guarantee for 108 of the 126 jets which were to be built by defence PSU Hindustan Aeronautics (HAL) as well as their huge production costs.

The NDA government, in office by then, finally junked the stalled MMRCA project and went in for the direct acquisition of 36 Rafales, without any transfer of technology or 'Make in India' component, under the Rs-59,000 crore inter-governmental contract with France, in September 2016.

Now, it is back to square one. Though the final contours of the MRFA project and price negotiations are still far from being finalised, it is estimated that it could now cost around Rs 3.25 lakh crore – this is almost double the MMR-

CA project. The IAF, meanwhile, is in a precarious position, down to just 29 fighter squadrons (each has 16-18 jets) against an authorised strength of 42.5. In contrast, Pakistan already has 25 squadrons and is looking to acquire 40 J-35A fifth-generation Chinese stealth jets in the near future. With an air force more than four times the size of the IAF, China is now even developing sixth-generation fighters such as Chengdu J-36 and Shenyang J-50.

China continues to steadily arm Pakistan to keep India bogged down in South Asia, with Bangladesh also being wooed now as a potential ally in the grand design. During the cross-border



hostilities with India in May last year, Pakistan used a wide array of Chinese weapons and sensor-shooter networks, ranging from J-10 fighters armed with over 200-km range PL-15 air-to-air missiles to HQ-9 air defence missile batteries. Beijing even provided Islamabad with real-time satellite feeds on Indian military deployments.

Faced with this collusive challenge in the backdrop of India's persistent failure to build its own jet engines, the continuing huge delays in production of the fourth-generation Tejas jets and their advanced versions, and the indigenous fifth-generation jet called AMCA (advanced medium combat aircraft) not expected to enter production before 2035, the IAF contends that the 4.5-generation Rafale is the only viable option available to shore up its depleting numbers.

Preparedness is the casualty

The situation on other fronts is equally dismal. Take conventional or diesel-electric submarines. India's major

underwater combat edge over Pakistan also faces erosion now, with the latter slated to induct eight advanced Chinese Hangor-class submarines, with air-independent propulsion (AIP) for greater underwater endurance, from this year onwards.

While India's mega project to construct six new German-origin submarines with AIP at Mazagon Docks for around Rs 90,000 crore may finally be inked soon, the first boat will roll out only after seven to eight years. This project, incidentally, was granted the initial nod or "acceptance of necessity" way back in 2007.

This lack of proactive planning and execution across multiple fronts, ranging from fighters, submarines, and helicopters to anti-tank guided missiles, air defence weapons, and night-fighting capabilities, rudely jolts India whenever it faces a crisis. Be it the Chinese incursions into eastern Ladakh in April-May 2020 or Operation Sindoor last year, India has to scramble for emergency procurements (EP) of even smaller weapons and arms to plug its critical operational gaps in a piecemeal manner.

The sixth EP tranche, approved after Operation Sindoor, incidentally, ended on January 15. Under it, the armed forces were empowered to build and replenish their stockpiles, with an outer combined limit of around Rs 40,000 crore for capital and revenue procurements from the existing 2025-26 defence budget.

For larger projects, the defence ministry had promulgated the much-touted strategic partnership (SP) model in May 2017 to boost indigenous defence production through tie-ups with foreign armament majors. But this has not taken off due to some inherent problems, including the pricing methodology. The defence offsets policy, too, has largely failed to deliver the goods.

India needs well-crafted concrete long-term capability development plans to ensure the domestic defence-industrial base becomes robust, with greater private sector participation, the armed forces get the requisite capabilities to deter threats, and the country gets the biggest bang for its buck. Amid the ongoing geopolitical volatility, being upended by US President Donald Trump in no small measure, it is a strategic necessity.

(The writer is a senior journalist who writes on strategic/defence issues)

RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE

The great Indian art of cutting the line

The urge to slip ahead when no one is watching can be powerful

ASHOK B HERYANI

I have been observing this phenomenon for years, and it deserves to be called what it is: a national habit. I am, of course, talking about queue-jumping.

We, in India, have elevated queue-jumping to a fine art, practised with remarkable confidence and even a hint of pride. Bank queues, airport queues, cinema queues – no line is truly sacred. We excel at the casual sidle, the innocent glance, and the sudden display of urgency that propels us to the front.

I recall an incident at a bank that captures this perfectly. A gentleman, clearly in a hurry, walked straight up to the counter and began chatting

with the cashier, blissfully ignoring the dozen people waiting patiently in line. When someone gently pointed out the existence of a queue, he looked genuinely surprised – as though the rest of us were merely extras on a set, placed there for his convenience. The cashier smiled politely and began serving him. The queue, at that moment, ceased to exist entirely.

What drives this behaviour? A belief that rules apply only to others? Or a quiet conviction that one's own time is far more precious than anyone else's? Perhaps it is simply a habit – practised so often that it no longer feels wrong or even noticeable.

Over time, I have seen every tactic deployed. People argue, cajole, and even invent reasons to get ahead. Some suddenly discover senior-citizen status. Others feign injuries that disappear once their task is done. There are those who announce they have "just one quick question", which somehow requires full service. It is a never-ending

performance, rehearsed and refined.

The irony, of course, is that queue-jumping merely redistributes frustration. It does not save time; it wastes everyone else's. Instead of order, it creates irritation; instead of patience, suspicion. We end up watching one another closely, alert for the next violation.

In the interest of honesty, I must confess that I have been tempted too. Who hasn't? The urge to slip ahead when no one is watching can be powerful. But that is precisely why resisting it matters. Civil behaviour is not defined by what we do when we are watched, but by what we choose when we are not.

Imagine the chaos if everyone decided the queue did not apply to them. Now imagine the calm if everyone respected it, quietly and without exception.

So perhaps it's time for a small pact – with ourselves, if not with each other. Let's stand in line, wait our turn and prove that order is not beyond us.

Who's with me?

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Governor's duty, not discretion

I refer to 'Guv refuses to address session...' (Jan 22). The Governor's refusal to address the session is blatantly unconstitutional. Article 176(1) mandates the Governor to address the joint session annually. The Governor is a titular head, functioning on the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers. Refusal to address the Assembly, walkouts and altering the state-prepared speech set a bad precedent, and it is notable that this occurs only in

Update infrastructure

Apologies 'Classrooms lag behind state's AI ambition' (Jan 22). Karnataka's AI ambitions ring hollow when classrooms lack basic digital infrastructure. Policies mean little without trained teachers, updated curricula, and access to technology beyond elite institutions. An education-first approach, with early digital literacy and state-wide reskilling programmes, is essential. If talent is not built locally, the state will remain dependent on external expertise. **Sihi Santhosh**, Bengaluru

Ensure accountability

The Election Commission's "logical

non-BJP-ruled states. Although governors are considered agents of the Union government, it only implies that they are a constitutional link between the state and the Union. They should function independently of the political heads at the Centre and discharge their duties impartially. They will do well to remember that non-BJP governments are also democratically elected. **Prabhu Harle**, Bengaluru

discrepancies" approach ("Roll clean-up should not erase real voters", Jan 22) raises concerns. The EC must ensure accountability, transparency, and not exclude voters, avoiding adverse impact on India's electoral democracy. **Radha Ananya**, Bengaluru

Anything but peace

India has no reason to associate itself with this so-called Board of Peace or to share a platform with Pakistan, a country with a long and well-documented record of sponsoring and breeding terrorists who continue to attack our nation. A cursory look at the Board's stated purpose, its opaque management structure, and

the vesting of lifelong, unquestionable authority in Donald Trump as its self-appointed chairman is sufficient to deter any self-respecting country or leader from engaging with this bizarre creation. This Board stands either as a stark reflection of Trump's boundless arrogance and appetite for self-promotion, or as further evidence of a mental imbalance that professional psychiatrists have openly begun to suggest. **T C Narayan**, Bengaluru

Our readers are welcome to email letters to: **letters@deccanherald.co.in** (only letters emailed – not handwritten – will be accepted). All letters must carry the sender's postal address and phone number.

SPEAK OUT



You (Eknath Shinde) broke our party, someone else will break yours.

Anand Dubey, Shiv Sena (UBT) leader

We have to distrust each other. It is our only defence against betrayal.

Tennessee Williams

TO BE PRECISE



IN PERSPECTIVE

Credit unlocks minorities' potential

Limited access to credit impedes opportunity. India must prioritise inclusive lending as a public investment

G KUMAR NAIK

Across India, the promise of upward mobility still hinges on something as simple as access to timely and affordable credit. For many young people, this single barrier shapes the future course of their education, work, and overall lifestyle. And an absence of accessible credit often translates into stalled aspirations.

Whenever access, capital, and education have flourished, minority communities have been among the architects of the republic's economic and intellectual foundations. From the Tata Group to Azim Premji, from Kasturbhai Lalbhai's imprint on higher education to Yusuf Hamied's transformation of Indian pharmaceuticals, the institutions that anchor India bear the marks of a plural social fabric. Reading these achievements as exceptions obscures the larger point – that they are outcomes of opportunity, not anomalies of identity. Inclusion, then, is the condition under which talent is converted into national capacity.

A wide body of empirical research has consistently shown that several minority communities continue to face outcomes comparable to, or in some cases worse than, other historically disadvantaged groups. In such cases, broader and more equitable access to credit can expand enterprise, employment, and economic contribution. The National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation (NMD-FC) was established in 1994, aimed at helping minority communities study further, start small businesses, and take up self-employment through State-sponsored loans.

In response to my question in Parliament, data released by the Ministry of Minority Affairs shows the flow of credit to minority families has been quite limited on the ground. Of the Rs 8,800 crore released over the past three decades, more than 75% has gone to just three states – West Bengal, Kerala, and Tamil Nadu. Most other states have received, on average, barely Rs 3 crore in micro-credit and Rs 63 crore in term loans. Even large states such as Karnataka and Uttar Pradesh, which together account for some of India's largest minority populations, have fewer than 30,000 beneficiaries under NMDFC schemes.

This limited reach is mirrored in education loans. Between 2019-20 and 2021-22, the NMDFC sanctioned only 513 concessional loans for technical and professional courses. In contrast, the *Padho Pardesh* scheme, discontinued in 2022-23, supported over 3,500 students annually. The Government of In-

dia's equity contribution to the NMDFC has dropped sharply, from Rs 160 crore in 2019-20 to Rs 61 crore in 2023-24. This decline in support reflects a clear shift in priorities and a growing reluctance on the part of the Centre to bear any risk. Such risk appetite hits rock bottom when it comes to the poor, even as the State routinely underwrites credit for large corporate interests.

Painstaking work is required to make access to resources genuinely democratic; it takes more than rhetoric. What is needed is a change in organisational thinking, one that recognises credit for the poor not as a liability, but as a public investment. Viable lending models exist, from community-based institutions to cooperative and self-help-driven frameworks, that demonstrate how risk can be shared, monitored, and reduced. Scaling such models requires the Centre to reclaim its role as a risk-bearing guarantor of inclusion, to partner with institutions willing to take calculated risks for the public good.

Partners in progress

Large sections of minority communities remain outside the reach of formal credit networks, relying largely on informal lenders. First, the network itself must be expanded. Institutions like the Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA) meet strong demand for loans while operating with the trust and confidence of their communities. Their experience exposes the gaps in formal credit delivery, offering lessons for the State on what is missing. Partnerships with colleges, universities, minority industry chambers, and insurance providers willing to share risk can help extend reach where government capacity is limited.

Second, providing loans is not enough. Active monitoring, mentoring, and managerial training are essential to ensure that credit is effectively utilised, repayment is maintained, and enterprises thrive. This requires going beyond the traditional role of a bank; borrowers must be guided and supported, not simply handed money. In doing so, credit becomes not a transaction, but a tool for empowerment.

Moving a resolution on minority rights at the Haripura Congress session on February 20 1938, Nehru had recognised a simple truth: economic hardship affects all people the same, and such material insecurity is what matters to them. For Nehru, India's progress depended on a genuine sense of belonging for all minorities. Today, with limited credit flows and shrinking government contributions leaving the promise of minority welfare largely on paper, his vision remains urgent. We must empower institutions to ensure that minority communities can participate fully and meaningfully as equal partners in the nation's progress.

(The writer is a retired IAS officer and Congress Lok Sabha member from Raichur)

‘I just want to relax and spend time with my dogs’

Fresh off the announcement of her retirement from NASA just a day ago, legendary astronaut Sunita Williams touched down at the ninth edition of the Kerala Literature Festival (KLF) on Thursday. In an exclusive interaction with DH, the record-breaking space explorer reflected on her 27-year career, the heartbreaking transition to retirement, and her new-found status as a civilian who just wants to catch up on sleep and spend time with her pets. Excerpts:

● **Now that you have retired from NASA, will you be helping India in its human spaceflight programme (Gaganyaan) in any capacity?**
I don't know what I'm going to do next; I don't have any plans *per se*. Right now, I just want to relax for a little while and spend some time with my family, my friends, and my dogs. Hopefully, being here and talking to students will help promote STEM in this country. I don't have any major

Sunita Williams, former NASA astronaut and retired US Navy Captain, in conversation with Ashwin B M

THE

DEEP TAKE

objectives except to share my story and the story of space exploration.

● **What will you miss most about**

space and the programme?
The view of our planet is incredible, and not having that opportunity again is a little heartbreaking. But really, it is the people. My husband always tells me I am lucky to work with such inventive, smart people who just want to get the job done. I actually retired on December 27, but I have been so busy it doesn't feel like it yet. Now, it is time to pass the torch to the next generation. I am looking forward to them becoming famous and doing big things.

● **Can you take us back to the exact moment you decided you wanted to go to space?**
Honestly, I was surprised when I got into the programme. I thought it might have been a clerical error! My background was as a helicopter test pilot; I am operational. I studied engineering, but I never thought it was my forte. However, being a tester and knowing how to ask the right questions while developing spacecraft

turned out to be a good fit. I just tried to do my best, and it turned into an amazing opportunity to help build and operate the space station.

● **Given the skewed representation of non-binary and queer identities in STEM, how can we ensure more inclusivity in space programmes?**
To be honest, that is a question I have never thought about. I have historically held jobs that were for males. My approach has always been to put the “blinders” on and just do the best job possible. I think the best way to open doors for any underrepresented group is to prove you can do the job; then there is no debate. Regarding physical inclusivity, we try to accommodate different sizes



in spacesuits, but it is an expensive business, and there are certain height criteria. But if people are the best for the job, I don't see any roadblocks.

● **How did you cope with the uncertainty of your last mission when the stay was extended unexpectedly?**
The hardest part was the summer, when we didn't know if we were going back on our spacecraft or not. We were extra crewmates up there. We were eating a lot of food and using the bathroom a lot. You have to pitch in and do the non-glorious jobs, like fixing meals or stocking supplies, to be part of the team. The most precarious time was when our original spacecraft

left to free the docking port and we were waiting for SpaceX Crew-9. We had a plan, but it was a team sport. I felt lucky to get extra time in space.

● **What was it like being away from your dogs, and what is your take on the Supreme Court of India's directives regarding community dogs in public spaces?**
My dogs are huge in my life. I lost my Gorby in 2017, but Gunner and Rotor are my little buddies. While I was up there, a cargo craft brought me 3D-printed miniatures of my dogs, which was wonderful. Regarding the legal issues with community dogs, I only read a snippet about it, but I understand the priority of human safety. However, it is partially our fault as humans for creating environments where animals can't live naturally. From space, you realise every person, animal, and plant lives on this one planet. We all need to give each other a little physical space.

The US president used a keynote speech at the World Economic Forum in Switzerland to renounce the last vestiges of the liberal democratic order

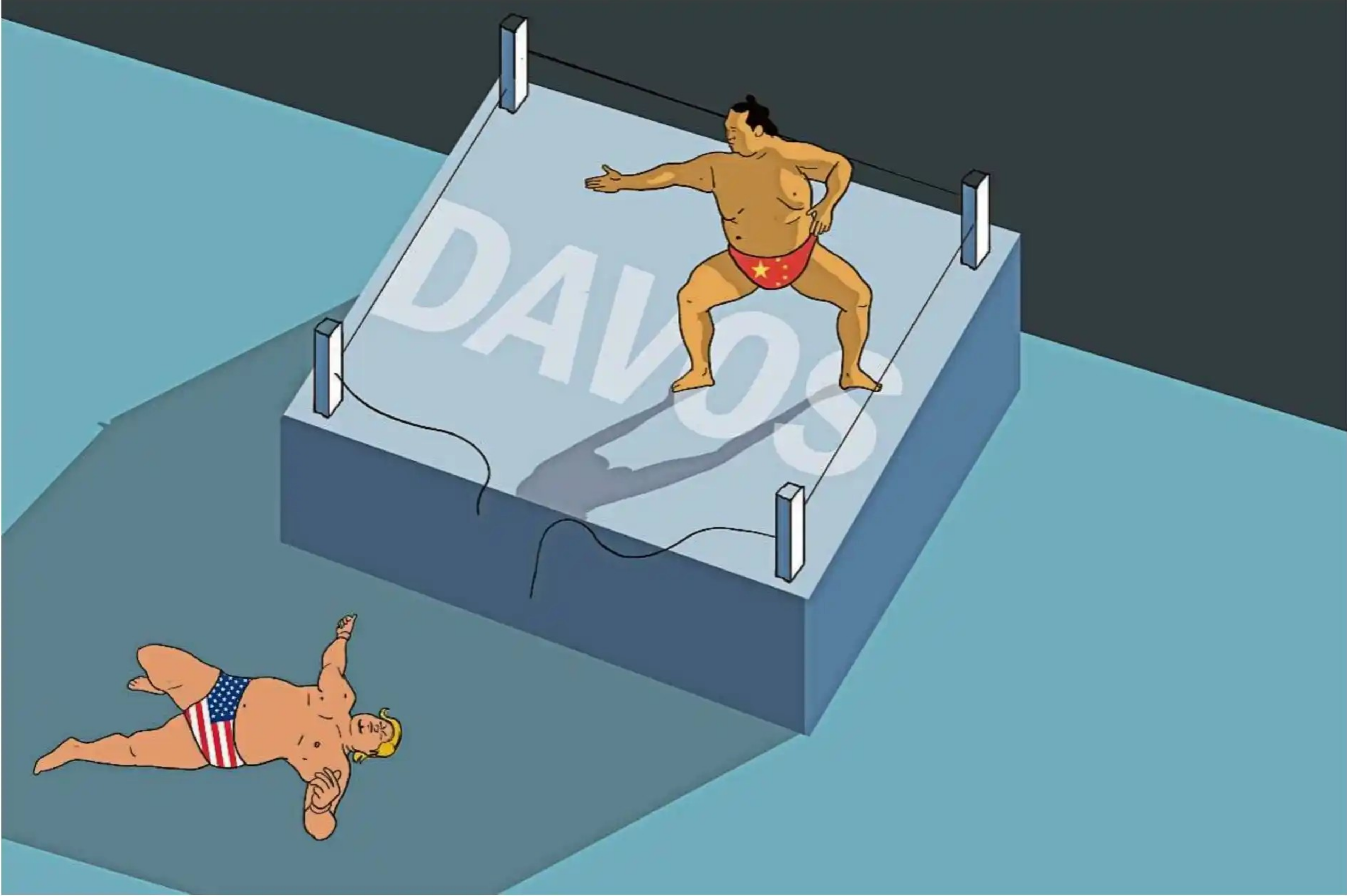
PETER S GOODMAN

In a long, rambling address that was by turns bombastic, aggrieved and self-congratulatory, US President Donald Trump pronounced last rites on American leadership of the liberal democratic order forged by the United States and its allies after World War II.

Trump used a keynote speech at the World Economic Forum in Davos on Wednesday — a pilgrimage site for adherents of globalisation — to assert that the United States was done offering its markets and its military protection to European allies he derided as freeloaders. And he vowed to advance his trade war. He characterised tariffs as the price of admission to a land of 300 million consumers.

“The United States is keeping the whole world afloat,” Trump said. “Everybody took advantage of the United States.”

By evening, Trump had flip-flopped on Greenland. He said in a social media post that he would no longer use tariffs to try to wrest control of the Danish territory, at least while discussions between his top aides and Europeans carried forth. The announcement spared the sovereignty of the island, but there was no taking back the significance of Trump's attack on the global economic order just hours earlier.



DH ILLUSTRATION: DEEPAK HARICHANDAN

The American president appeared in the same auditorium where, nine years earlier, the Chinese president, Xi Jinping, gave a speech claiming credentials as a champion of international cooperation. Xi captivated the village of Davos with his endorsement of what he described as “economic globalisation.” His 2017 address, delivered days before Trump was inaugurated for his first term, resonated as a clear yet futile effort to stave off the trade war that soon unfolded.

“Pursuing protectionism is just like locking oneself in a dark room,” Xi said that day. “While wind and rain may be kept outside, that dark room will also block light and air. No one will emerge as a winner in a trade war.”

Then as now, deep scepticism greeted China's bid for recognition as a responsible superpower in contrast to Trump's vision of “America First.” China's government has long subsidised the making of factory goods that have threatened jobs from Indiana to Indonesia. China's surveillance state has jailed dissidents, labour organisers and journalists. Its military has menaced the self-governing island of Taiwan and neighbours in Southeast Asia. Not even its greatest allies would describe China as a paragon of fair dealing.

Yet in the near decade since, the sense has only been enhanced that China is — at least rhetorically — invested in economic values that Trump has renounced: engagement in multilateral institutions to advance its causes, faith in the wealth-enhancing powers of global trade and recognition that no country is large enough or powerful enough to go it alone.

Trump used his 90-minute turn before the global elite to underscore that contrast, even as fundamental doubts remain about the desirability of a world increasingly influenced by Beijing.

“China definitely wants to assume the mantle of being the adult in the room, while the United States continues capriciously

China wins as Trump cedes leadership of the world economy

showing hostility,” said Eswar Prasad, an international trade expert at Cornell University. “The question is whether the rest of the world is willing to accede. I don't think the world is ready to carry full on into the embrace of China.”

Europe and China are, in some ways, natural allies in an era when the United States has opted for nationalist brio. Both remain officially committed to the concept of rules-based international trade, even as China is frequently accused of breaching the details. Both affirm the scientific reality of climate change, while mobilising investment and know-how to combat it.

China is the global leader in clean energy technology, designing and manufacturing solar cells, wind turbines, electric vehicles and batteries. Europe, despite recent step backs, has set ambitious targets to diminish carbon emissions — a fact that Trump singled out for derision during his speech, while thumping his chest for the American return to fossil fuels.

“The United States avoided the catastrophic energy collapse which befell every European nation that pursued the green new scam, perhaps the greatest hoax in history,” Trump said.

He suggested that Chinese manufacturers were laughing while selling their wind turbines to European buyers. “They sell them to stupid people,” Trump said. “Mostly, China goes with the coal.”

In truth, the Chinese government has invested aggressively in a world-leading expansion of renewable energy while dimin-

ishing its still substantial reliance on coal.

Given that Europe's largest economies — especially Germany — contain large-scale auto industries, and given that China has become the dominant source of electric vehicles and batteries, the two economic powers are likely to remain major industrial rivals.

The biggest wedge between them is Ukraine, said Adam Tooze, an economic historian at Columbia University and author of Chartbook, a popular newsletter. China's steadfast refusal to condemn Russian aggression is a nonstarter in Europe, where Vladimir Putin, Russia's president, is feared and reviled.

“The Europeans would stand alongside China but for Ukraine,” Tooze said. He called Russia's war a barrier to what might otherwise be a natural form of “Eurasian multilateralism.”

Trump's arrival was highly anticipated in Davos, and across Europe, given his threats to seize Greenland from Denmark, a fellow member of NATO.

The mere possibility of a conflict between the United States and Denmark has threatened the credibility of NATO. In his speech, he repeated his laments that the North Atlantic alliance has functioned as a kind of American-furnished security charity.

“What I'm asking for is a piece of ice, cold and poorly located, that can play a vital role in world peace and world protection,” Trump said. “It's a very small ask compared to what we have given them for

many, many decades.”

A day before Trump's address, his commerce secretary, Howard Lutnick, declared during a panel discussion in Davos that the world trading system — constructed largely on American designs — was part of history. “Globalisation has failed the West and the United States of America,” Lutnick said.

Trump offered a reminder of his willingness to impose tariffs on friends and enemies alike.

In what appeared to be an off-the-cuff departure from his scripted remarks, the president recounted the story of how, last year, he decided to impose steep tariffs on imports from Switzerland.

Initially, he opted for 30% levies in an effort to close an American trade deficit with Switzerland, he said.

Then he spoke with the country's president, Karin Keller-Sutter. “A woman,” Trump said. “And she was very repetitive. She said: ‘No, no, no, you cannot do that, 30%. You cannot do that. We are a small, small country.’”

The call prompted Trump to increase the tariffs to 39%. “She just rubbed me the wrong way. I'll be honest with you,” Trump said, adding later, “She was so aggressive.”

Then he got a visit from Rolex, the Swiss watchmaker. And then he agreed to reduce the tariffs to 15%.

“We brought it down to a lower level,” Trump said. “Doesn't mean it is not going up.”

The New York Times

Debating God, missing the point

GANESH DATTA PODDAR

A conversation, according to Buddhist canons, must be dialogical and result in mutual benefit for parties involved. A public conversation carries an additional responsibility: it must address issues that concern the public. The Buddha never felt the need to debate the existence or non-existence of God to spread his message of right conduct and compassion. His teachings challenged prevailing beliefs and had revolutionising effects on Vedic social practices. They were moral and social in orientation, grounded in the idea that the worth of any human endeavour lies in its social usefulness. Seen in this light, how should we assess the recent debate between poet and lyricist Javed Akhtar and Islamic scholar Mufti Shamail Nadwi on the question, “Does God exist?”

Leaving aside whether Akhtar and Nadwi benefited personally or emerged wiser from the exchange, a more pertinent question arises: did the debate serve a social purpose? From a historical perspective, Akhtar highlighted the limitations of faith and religion vis-à-vis the advancement of human knowledge and the evolution of more rational, just, humane, and democratic social orders. On this basis, he rejected the notion of an omnipotent and omnipresent God. Nadwi, drawing on logic and reasoning, sought to establish the existence of an omniscient God as the creator and regulator of the universe. While Akhtar's perspective was anchored in ethical and social concerns, Nadwi's argument largely remained within the confines of metaphysical reasoning.

But does Akhtar need such a forum to articulate his ideas? As noted Islamic scholar Zafarul Islam Khan observed, this was a needless debate when “there are many issues crying out for discussions.” Kamal Faruqui, a member of the All India Muslim Personal Law Board, similarly suggested that Akhtar should decline invitations to such “useless debates.”

The audience included believers, young students with impressionable minds, and well-known scholars such as former JNU professor Purushottam Agrawal, historian Mridula Mukherjee, and scientist Gaur Raza. Agrawal and Raza believe the debate served a useful purpose in an age marked by polarisation and discord. In contrast, activist and public intellectual Yogendra Yadav, who declined to moderate the debate, termed it “pointless” and “irrelevant.”

Going a step ahead, I object to it being called an “academic debate” under the aegis of the Academic Dialogue Forum. This risks setting an unhealthy precedent, encouraging demands for discussions on the existence or non-existence of God within university departments and centres of religious studies — spaces already burdened with a poor reputation for insufficient critical engagement — diverting the focus away from serious study of religious traditions towards speculative debates about the origins of the universe contained in different religions.

More broadly, did Akhtar's labours generate greater awareness of social evils rooted in religious worldviews or foster agency in society to challenge them? History suggests that a purely rationalist critique of religion has limited effectiveness in fighting social practices sanctioned by scriptures. Academic Suhas Palshikar has argued that the rationalist critiques of religion by Hamid Dalwai and Gopal Ganesh Agarkar failed to resonate widely, whereas Gandhi — a believer, with an “ability to intervene” — was far more effective in confronting the social evils of his times.

A contemptuous rejection of religion as irrational or blind faith risks a form of hubris that obscures social reality — more so in Indian society, where religious worldviews significantly shape social life. Writing for a national daily, Yadav has rightly argued that “such a debate does a disservice to the cause of secular India, as it conflates secularism with atheism.”

Political philosopher Rajeev Bhargava, who is credited with undertaking a long and arduous study of Indian secularism, has argued that one of the major threats to the practice of Indian secularism has come from those Indian secularists who have chosen to oppose *sanatan sanskriti* and *margas* (non-religions) and defend some Western variant of secularism (*Reimagining Indian Secularism*). Indeed, as Yadav points out, Indian secularism works well when a vast majority of believers accept it. To bring about socio-religious reforms in India, what is needed is a patient, sincere, and sensitive engagement with different religious traditions and not an outright rejection of religion.

(The writer is Adjunct Faculty, Department of Social Sciences, FLAME University)

OUR PAGES OF HISTORY

50 YEARS AGO: JANUARY 1976

Kuwait aid for Kali project

New Delhi, January 22
A credit agreement with the Kuwait Fund for financing the Kalinadi hydel scheme and other projects is expected to be signed in Kuwait early next week. An Indian delegation, led by Mr. M. G. Kaul, Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, is leaving for Kuwait to negotiate the credit agreement. The Kalinadi project alone may be given a credit of Rs. 44 crore. The overall agreement, the first of its kind, will cover specific projects. The final amount of aid from the Kuwait Fund will be known only at the end of the negotiations.

25 YEARS AGO: JANUARY 2001

Lok Pal Bill ambit to cover PM, Union ministers

New Delhi, Jan 22
Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee, who expressed serious concern over rampant corruption, today said that his government would soon enact the Lokpal Bill with adequate powers to deal with charges of corruption against Union ministers, including the prime minister. Mr Vajpayee said the failure to catch the corrupt and then to deliver deterrent punishment to them has led to widespread cynicism among the people, resulting in degradation of moral values throughout the society.

OASIS | ANITHA RAMACHANDER

The being that needs no title

In our daily conversations, we define ourselves by our profession. We respond by saying, “I am a director,” “I am a CEO,” or “I am a doctor.” Though life itself calls for pauses. Sometimes, for various reasons, our careers slow down, change direction, or come to an end. Taking a break for family, health, caregiving, or reflection can feel unsettling. There is a stillness when we have no job in our everyday routine. In that stillness, a deeper question arises: who am I when I have no job title to introduce myself with?

Work provides rhythm to time and dignity to effort. Work deserves respect, but we cannot rely on it to build

our self-esteem. When we have jobs, we often feel secure but vulnerable when things slow down. This external validation seeps inward, and we measure our worth by productivity, achievements, and social status. We see ourselves in the mirror of the world created by others' validation and applause. Anthropologist David Graeber, in his reflections on modern employment, warned of the inner cost of work stripped of meaning, noting that “the moral and spiritual damage that comes from this situation is profound.”

Our lives extend beyond our

profession and the position we hold. When we set aside the positions we have and our daily routines, we remain beings of hope, fear, love, and the search for meaning in who we are. It teaches us that the self is consciousness experiencing the world through the various roles we play in our daily lives. We should understand that our profession is simply a way to express ourselves. It does not define who we are. Work is just a service, a way to share our talents with the world. Teachers nurture minds, leaders guide others, businesses create value, and so on. Through our



profession, we transform our identity into contribution.

Recognising our self-worth outside of our profession does not mean losing ambition. It is simply a matter of viewing them from the proper perspective. Jobs may reflect our character, but they do not define it. We are judged not by our achievements but by what we accomplish. Our positions are never permanent; our titles will change, our duties will evolve, and what is important today may not remain so for long. Through this, we will rediscover a more profound sense of ourselves, not in what we do but in the simple, profound fact that we are.

Court questions rule of law as minister's son remains absconding in a criminal case

"Ask him to surrender be-

The HC subsequently granted interim protection from arrest to Shreeyansh Jagtap.

Meanwhile, complainant Harvinder Singh's counsel, Maninder Singh, hinted at challenging the order in high court.

He was involved in an attack on a CISF camp in Jharkhand's Bokaro on March 3, 2006, in which five CISF

More than 11,000 Maoists have been arrested, around 250 killed and over 350 surrendered before security forces across Jharkhand between 2001 and 2025.

destroyed in the flames. Police rushed to the scene, oversaw rescue efforts, and shifted the injured to Nandyal Govern-

Nandyal district Superintendent of Police (SP) Suneel Sheoran said both vehicles were engulfed in flames after the collision, but all 36 passengers were safely evacuated. Four sustained minor fractures and were taken to a nearby hospital for treatment.

◆ COMICS ◆

ACROSS: 4, Pardon 7, Broccoli 8, Of note 10, Stuns 13, Cues 14, Solo 15, Erse 16, Yap 17, Nero 19, Brew 21, Telesales 23, Beta 24, Step 26, Den 27, Tree 29, Eden 32, Bees 33, Plate 34, Solids 35, Insecure 36, Tendon.

DOWN: 1, Abyss 2, Mogul 3, Acts 4, Pious 5, Runs 6, Outlaw 9, Feeble 11, Tow 12, Nonet 13, Crosses 15, Ere 16, Yes 18, Elated 20, Repel 21, Ten 22, Ate 23, Become 25, Bet 28, Resin 30, Datum 31, Never 32, Bird 33, Poet.

To solve the puzzle:
To solve a su-do-ku puzzle, every digit from 1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows, and in each of the nine boxes.

To solve the puzzle: Eliminate numbers by filling in squares so that remaining cells in that row or column do not repeat that number more than once. Filled-in cells cannot be horizontally or vertically adjacent. The un-filled cells must form a single component connected horizontally and vertically.

To solve the puzzle:
Put a number from 1 through 9 in a cell. No zeros. A number in a cell separated by diagonal line tells the sum of numbers in consecutive cells at its right or downward. No number may appear more than once in consecutive cells.

To solve the puzzle:
The objective is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column, each 3x3 box and each shaded diagonal line contains the same number only once.

FOUR RACK TOTAL
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN =

U ₁	N ₁	R ₁	E ₁	A ₁	D ₂	Y ₄
C ₃	A ₁	M ₃	E ₁	R ₁	A ₁	L ₁
O ₁	I ₁	L ₁	S ₁	K ₅	I ₁	N ₁
C ₃	H ₄	E ₁	E ₁	S ₁	E ₁	

PAR SCORE 150-160

JUD

Y_4	RACK 1	=	<u>61</u>
L_1	RACK 2	=	<u>67</u>
N_1	RACK 3	=	<u>72</u>
	RACK 4	=	<u>33</u>
	JUDD'S TOTAL		<u>233</u>

Trump rolls out Board of Peace, but many top allies aren’t participating

Doubts over mandate and membership cloud Gaza initiative

President Donald Trump on Thursday inaugurated his Board of Peace to lead efforts at maintaining a ceasefire in Israel’s war with Hamas, insisting that “everyone wants to be a part” of the body that could eventually rival the United Nations — despite many US allies opting not to participate. In a speech at the World Economic Forum, Trump sought to create momentum for a project to map out a future of the war-torn Gaza Strip that has been overshadowed this week, first by his threats to seize Greenland, then by a dramatic retreat from that push.

“This isn’t the United States, this is for the world,” he said, adding, “I think we can spread it out to other things as we succeed in Gaza.” The event featured Ali Shaath, the head of a new, future technocratic government in Gaza, announcing that the Rafah border crossing will open in both directions next week.

Who's on Trump's Board of Peace, who said no

Chaired by US President Donald Trump, the Board of Peace—originally envisioned as a small group of world leaders overseeing the Gaza ceasefire plan—has since been expanded. Here is a tally of which countries are joining, which are not, and which remain undecided.

Countries joining the board	Countries refusing to join	Noncommittal nations/group
YES Argentina, Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Belarus, Bulgaria, Egypt, Hungary, Indonesia, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kosovo, Morocco, Mongolia, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan and Vietnam	NO France, Norway, Slovenia, Sweden, United Kingdom	Cambodia, China, Croatia, Cyprus, Greece, Germany, India, Italy, European Union's executive arm, Paraguay, Russia, Singapore, Thailand and Ukraine

This isn't the United States, this is for the world. I think we can spread it out to other things as we succeed in Gaza
- DONALD TRUMP, US President

That’s after Israel said in early December it would open the crossing, which runs between Gaza and Egypt, but has yet to do so. Shaath, an engineer and former Palestinian Authority official from Gaza, is overseeing the Palestinian committee set to govern the territory under US supervision.

The new peace board was initially envisioned as a small group of world leaders overseeing the ceasefire, but it has morphed into something far more ambitious — and scepticism about its membership and mandate has led some countries usually closest to Washington to take a pass. Trump tried not to let

those not participating ruin his unveiling party, saying 59 countries had signed onto the board — even though heads of state, top diplomats and other officials from only 19 countries plus the US actually attended. He told the group, ranging from Azerbaijan to Paraguay to Hungary, “You’re the most powerful people in the world.”

Zelenskyy blasts Europe over slow response to Russia

Repeated warnings feel like 'Groundhog Day': Ukraine president

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy on Thursday criticised his European allies for what he described as a slow, fragmented and inadequate response to Russia’s invasion nearly four years ago and to its continued international aggression. Addressing the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, Zelenskyy laid out a series of grievances, saying Europe’s approach had left Ukraine vulnerable to Russian President Vladimir Putin even as the US pushes for a peace settlement. “Europe looks lost,” Zelenskyy said, urging the continent to become a real global force. He contrasted Europe’s actions with what he described as Washington’s bold moves in Venezuela and Iran.

Russia, Ukraine & US to hold trilateral talks in UAE

Zelenskyy said on Thursday that the United Arab Emirates will host “trilateral” talks this week with Ukrainian, US and Russian officials. The Ukrainian leader did not elaborate on the format of the talks, or whether Ukrainian and Russian officials would negotiate directly, and his office did not respond to requests to clarify. “It will be the first trilateral meeting in the Emirates. It will be tomorrow and the day after tomorrow,” Zelenskyy said at the World Economic Forum.

ferred to the film Groundhog Day, in which the main character relives the same day repeatedly. “Just last year, here in Davos, I ended my speech with the words: Europe needs to know how to defend itself. A year has passed. And nothing has changed. We are still in a situation where I must say the same words again,” Zelenskyy said. He added that Ukrainians also seemed trapped in a similar cycle in the war. “We keep repeating the same thing for weeks, months and, of course, for years. And yet that is exactly how we live now. It’s our life,” he said. Zelenskyy spoke a day after

meeting behind closed doors for about an hour with US President Donald Trump in Davos. Trump described the talks as “very good”, while Zelenskyy said they were “productive and meaningful”. European countries, which see their own future defence at stake in the conflict on their eastern flank, have provided financial, military and humanitarian aid to Kyiv. However, not all members of the 27-nation European Union are contributing equally. Ukraine has also voiced frustration over internal political disagreements within Europe and what it sees as slow decision-making by the bloc.

‘Sinners’ sets record with 16 Oscar nominations

LOS ANGELES, REUTERS/PTI: *Sinners*, a Segregation-era vampire thriller starring Michael B Jordan, stormed into the awards race on Thursday with the most Academy Award nominations of any film this year, landing a record 16 nods. The large haul sets up *Sinners* as the frontrunner heading into the March 15 Oscars, where it will face contenders including *One Battle After Another*, *Frankenstein*, *Hamnet* and *Marty Supreme* for the coveted best picture prize. The previous record for most nominations was 14, a mark achieved by *All About Eve*, *Titanic* and *La La Land*. *Bugonia*, *Fl*, *The Secret Agent*, *Sentimental Value* and *Train Dreams* were also nominated for this year’s best picture trophy. Jordan was nomi-

nated for best actor for his dual role in *Sinners*. Other nominations for the Warner Bros film include best director for Ryan Coogler, supporting actor for Delroy Lindo, supporting actress for Wunmi Mosaku, and awards for cinematography, costume design, original screenplay and visual effects. Jordan’s competition includes Leonardo DiCaprio in *One Battle After Another*, which scored 13 nominations, and Timothee Chalamet in *Marty Supreme*. In the best actress category, Jessie Buckley was nominated for *Hamnet* and Kate Hudson for *Song Sung Blue*. India’s official entry, Neeraj Ghaywan’s acclaimed drama *Homebound*, did not make it to the final five in the Best International Feature Film category.

US, Denmark to renegotiate 1951 Greenland defence pact

PRAGUE/DAVOS, AFP: The future of Greenland has emerged as a flashpoint in transatlantic relations after US President Donald Trump said Washington and Denmark would renegotiate a decades-old defence pact covering the Arctic island. A source familiar with discussions between Trump and Nato Secretary-General Mark Rutte said on Thursday that the US and Denmark would reopen the 1951 defence agreement on Greenland. The defence deal, last updated in 2004, already allows Washington to increase troop deployments on the island, provided authorities in Denmark and Greenland are informed. The US currently operates the Pituffik Space Base — a key component of its missile defence system.

Warning to Europeans Speaking separately, Trump warned of “big retaliation” if European countries sought to pressure Washington over Greenland by selling large holdings of US Treasury bonds. European Nato members hold over \$2 trillion in US Treasuries, a figure that rises to about \$3 trillion if Canada is included. Trump has stepped back from earlier threats to seize Greenland by force. The Greenland controversy has also triggered ridicule in Europe. Czech Prime Minister Andrej Babis became the subject of online mockery after revealing he had bought an expensive globe to “find Greenland”. Posting about the purchase on social media, Babis said he spent 15,000 koruna (\$720) on the globe to better understand where the autonomous Danish territory was located.

WORLD AT A GLANCE

People search for their belongings amid the debris of a collapsed building, a day after an Israeli airstrike in the Lebanese village of Qannarit on Thursday. AFP

Kirtida Mekani, Singapore's 'tree lady', dies at 66

► Kirtida Mekani, who came from Karnataka and became one of Singapore’s most influential champions of environmental sustainability, community service and cultural heritage, has passed away after suffering a massive heart attack at the age of 66, PTI reports from Singapore. A recipient of the President’s Award for environmental work and an inductee of the Singapore Women’s Hall of Fame in 2024, Mekani’s legacy is woven into the island’s green spaces, community gardens and educational institutions. The sudden passing of the “Tree Lady,” as she was affectionately called, on January 19 has left a profound void in Singapore’s environmental, arts, and civic communities — circles she shaped quietly yet decisively for more than three decades. Mekani’s lifelong love for nature began in childhood on her family’s farm in Karnataka.

Trump sues JPMorgan for \$5 bn

► President Donald Trump sued banking giant JPMorgan Chase and its CEO Jamie Dimon for \$5 billion, accusing JPMorgan of debanking him and his businesses for political reasons after he left office in January 2021. AP/PTI reports from New York. The lawsuit, filed in Florida, alleges that JPMorgan abruptly closed multiple accounts in February 2021 with just 60 days notice and no explanation. By doing so, Trump claims JPMorgan cut the president and his businesses off from millions of dollars, disrupted their operations and forced Trump and the businesses to urgently open bank accounts elsewhere. “JPMC debanked (Trump and his businesses) because it believed that the political tide at the moment favoured doing so,” the lawsuit alleges. “We believe the suit has no merit,” a bank spokesperson said.

SOUTHERN RAILWAY

Head Quarters Office, Works Branch, Chennai-3
Tender Notice No. SR-TRACK-01-2026 Dt. 20.01.2026
e-Tender is invited for the following work by Principal Chief Engineer, Southern Railway.

Name of Work	App. Value Rs in Crores	EMD Rs.	Date of closing of tender	Period of completion
Phased Array Ultrasonic Testing (PAUT) of FB welded joints executed by mobile FB plants at site using RDSO verified PAUT weld tester in Chennai, Salem, Tiruchchirappalli and Madurai divisions of Southern Railway for a period of Two year.	5.86	443400.00	11.02.2026 at 15.00 hrs	24 Months

(Items 01 only)
Further details are available in detail on website <https://www.ireps.gov.in>. The tenderer(s)/Contractor(s) to apply for e-tender for works in Southern Railway, need to get enrolled in the e-tender portal www.ireps.gov.in and only online tenders will be accepted.
Note: (i) It is the responsibility of the tenderer to check if any Corrigendum is issued for any correction or modifications uploaded subsequently in the website and the same shall be taken into account while submitting the Tender.
(ii) Exemption from remitting Bid Security Amount (EMD):
The following categories of tenderers are only exempted from remitting Bid Security:
(a) Any firm recognized by Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) as 'Startups' shall be exempted from payment of bid Security
(b) Labour Co-operative Societies shall submit only 50% of Bid Security
Tenderer should submit relevant documents along with his/their offer from remitting Bid Security. Non-submission of relevant documents, shall lead to summary rejection of offer.
By.CE/TMS/HQ
(For and on behalf of President of India)

S. E. RAILWAY – TENDER

For and on behalf of President of India, the Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer/TRD/ Kharagpur-721301 invites e-tender for the following works before 15:00 hrs. on the date mentioned against items and will be opened at 15:30 hrs. **Sl. No., Tender Notice No. & Description of works** are as follows:
1. **TRD-KGP-W-2025-26-45 dated 21.01.2026.** Electrical/TRD for the work of Bauria : Provision for extension of platform cover shed on extended portion & other amenities at Bauria Jn station. **Tender Value:** ₹ 1,12,85,534.80. **EMD:** ₹ 2,06,400/-
2. **TRD-KGP-W-2025-26-47 dated 15.01.2026.** Electrical/TRD for the work of Dansi (ph) - Conversion of Dansi (PH) into Block station having 2 loop lines. **Tender Value:** ₹ 1,21,03,358.84. **EMD:** ₹ 2,10,500/-
3. **TRD-KGP-W-2025-26-27RT2 dated 21.01.2026.** Panskura Yard : Removal of PSR 75 kVhp on UP Line, 110 kVhp in DN Line, 110 kVhp in MID line, including correction of layout at Panskura east outer yard and Panskura-Raghunathbari to Kharagpur, also improvement of Drainage system. **Tender Value:** ₹ 2,83,83,217.68. **EMD:** ₹ 2,91,900/-
Cost of tender document : Nil for each. **Date of Opening:** 02.03.2026 for Sl. No. 1, 05.03.2026 for Sl. No. 2 and 10.03.2026 for Sl. No. 3. **Completion Period:** 12 months for each. **Date of Submission:** upto 15:00 hrs. of 02.03.2026 for Sl. No. 1, upto 15:00 hrs. of 05.03.2026 for Sl. No. 2 and upto 15:00 hrs. of 10.03.2026 for Sl. No. 3. Interested Tenderers may visit website www.ireps.gov.in for full details, description, specification of the tender and submit their bids online. In no case manual tender for this work will be accepted. **Note:** Prospective bidders may regularly visit www.ireps.gov.in to participate in all tenders. (PR-108)

e-Tender Document for auction (condemn items)
OFFICE OF THE SUPDT. OF POLICE (RADIO) UJJAIN ZONE, UJJAIN M.P.
POLICE LINE MAHANANDA NAGAR ROAD, UJJAIN (M-P) PIN NO.-456010
TELEPHONE NO. 0734-29990455, E-mail: spradio_ujn@mppolice.gov.in
NO. SP(R)/ UJJN-ZONE/STORE/AUCTION/219/2026 DATE- 12/ 01/2026

--: Open e-Tender Cum Auction Notice --:
S.P.(RADIO) UJJN ZONE.UJJN invites E-tender for auction of condemn items (where the items in what ever condition) as shown below mentioned:-

S. No.	ITEM NAME	TOTAL QTY.	OFF SET Price in Rs.	Required EMD in Rs.	Tender Fee in Rs.
1	SMF VRLA BATTERY 12 VOLT 100 AHC	261 NOS.			
2	SMF VRLA BATTERY 12 VOLT 17/26/47/52AHC	184 NOS.			
3	SMF VRLA BATTERY 12 VOLT 65/75/80AHC	86 NOS.			
4	CCTV CAMRA	260 NOS.			
5	CCTV UPS, OTHER ACCESSORIES	136 NOS.			
6	NI-MH BTY OF ALL TYPES MANPACK RADIO SETS.	2661 Nos.	8,44,737/-	25350/-	1,000/-
7	D.G.SET/PORTABLE GEN. UPS6KVA - 03 NOS., MAINS BTY CHARGER 12V/72V, INTELLIGENT BTY CHARGER-35 Nos, SMPS 12 VOLT 10/30AMP - 85NOS., SOLAR PANNEL-04NOS., GUIGE ROPE- 2000 MTR COAXIAL CABLE -2845 MTR AND VHF SET ACCESSORIES AND OTHER MISCLNEIOUS ITEMS 170TYPE	127 NO. ITEMS, GUIGE ROPE 2000 MTR, COAXIAL CABLE 2845 MTR&170 TYPES OF MISC. ITEMS			

1. Cost of tender documents is **Rs. 1,000/- (Rs.One thousand only)** which is non refundable and no Exemption in any condition, tender fee will be deposited online.
2. **Both Certificate required.** batteries, (management and handling) rule 2001 and amendment rule 2016 and according to mp govt gad circular no. 11-61/2010/1-9 bhopal date 27-11-10 for E-west execution) both original line certificate will be required in the name of one firm.
3. The tender fee and EMD should be deposit online through website. <https://www.mptenders.gov.in>
4. The tender should be submitted online on website <https://www.mptenders.gov.in> in favour of SP(RADIO) UJJAIN ZONE UJJAIN within scheduled date and time.
5. The tender documents can be also download from MP Police website (<https://www.mppolice.gov.in>)
6 Bidder can be bid only above the offset Price Rupees 8,44,737/- and GST taxes extra are applicable as per government rules with GST certificate.
7. **Schedule :-**

a	Documents download/sale start date/time	13/01 /2026/ 1700 hours.
b <th>Last date /time Queries submission</th> <th>20/01 /2026/ 1700 hours.</th>	Last date /time Queries submission	20/01 /2026/ 1700 hours.
c <th>Bid Submission Start date/time</th> <th>27 /01/2026/ 1700 hours.</th>	Bid Submission Start date/time	27 /01/2026/ 1700 hours.
d <th>Bid Submission End date/time</th> <th>02/02/2026/ 1200 hours.</th>	Bid Submission End date/time	02/02/2026/ 1200 hours.
e <th>Bid will be opened on date/time</th> <th>06/02 /2026/ 1200 hours.</th>	Bid will be opened on date/time	06/02 /2026/ 1200 hours.

G-24779/25
Superintendent of Police (Radio)
UJJAIN ZONE, UJJAIN

WEST CENTRAL RAILWAY

OPEN TENDER
The Deputy Chief Electrical Engineer (Project), West Central Railway, Jabalpur for and on behalf of President of India invites E-Tenders from the reputed and experienced contractors through online for the following work. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. (1) NIT No.: JBP-ELP-OH-E-T-2025-03, D: 16.01.2026. **Name of Work with location:** Design, Supply, Testing and Commissioning of Upgradation of electric traction system from 1x25 kV to 2x25 kV in Shridham-Bhadanpur Section of JBP Division, West Central Railway. **Approximate Cost of the work :** ₹ 159,48,73,424/- **Cost of tender form:** Nil. **Address of the office:** Dy.CEE/Project/ Jabalpur, West-Central Railway, G-Floor, CPM-Electrical building, Aside Railway stadium, JBP-482001 (M.P) **Bid Security:** ₹ 81,24,400/- **Completion Period:** 18 Months **Date & Time for submission of tender:** 20.02.2026 (upto 15.00 hrs.) **Date & Time for Opening of tender:** 20.02.2026, 15:30 hrs. Complete details of tender document available on the Railway website: <https://ireps.gov.in> and also placed on notice board of Dy.CEE/Project/JBP Office. (SD).
Assistance Electrical Engineer (Project), WCR, Jabalpur
सचल भारत अभियान एक कदम स्वच्छता की ओर

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

Tender Notice No. ECRN-TRD-01-2026
Dated : 14-01-2026
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following work:

Name of work	Approx. Value
Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Automatic Fault Locator (AFL) for 2 x 25 KV AC Traction as per RDSO Specification at TSS, SP & SSP in Amaravathi Colony-Vyasa Colony, Rayadurg-Pavagada, Pavagada - Madakasira & Hiriyur-Tavarakere Sections.	Rs. 5,26,01,867/-

For details log on to: www.ireps.gov.in
Keep visiting the website for any corrigendum till closing date
Deputy Chief Electrical Engineer/Traction Distribution (Construction) Bengaluru
PUB/BJ39/AAF/PBR/SW/2025-26 Cantonment
Download the UTS Mobile App from Google Play Store for ease of booking of unreserved tickets
South Western Railway - SWR | @SWR | @SARAWAR | @sw_always

CENTRAL RAILWAY

SOLAPUR DIVISION
e-Procurement
No. SUR/Sr.DMM/T.No. 96255816
Date: 20.01.2026 E-Tender Notice:-
Divisional Store Office Central Railway, Solapur for and on behalf of President of India invites online e-tenders on Railway's e-procurement website www.ireps.gov.in from the capable, reputed firms/Contractors for the following works. **01. Tender No:- 96255816, 02. Description:-** Supply, Installation, Commissioning and Proving Test of Electrically driven, Rotary screw, Air-cooled, Microprocessor based stationary Air compressor 500 CFM 10 Kg/cm2 as per technical specification attached herewith., **03. Quantity:- 2 Nos., 04. Earnest Money (INR):-** Rs.116460.00 **Date & Time of Closing of Tender** on www.ireps.gov.in. **02-02-2026 after 11:30.** The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website frequently before the date of closing of tender to note any changes/ corrigenda issued for this tender. Website: www.ireps.gov.in.
Sr. Divisional Material Manager Solapur
Traveling with dangerous and explosive goods is a punishable offense

CENTRAL RAILWAY

SOLAPUR DIVISION
COMMERCIAL WORK
EOI Notification No.: SUR/COMM/ NFR-Consultancy/2026/EOI
Date: 20.01.2026
Solapur Division, Central Railway invites Expression of Interest (EOI) from reputed and experienced consultancy firms enhancing Non-Fare Revenue (NFR) at 16 Railway Stations over Solapur Division. The consultancy shall focus on enhancing revenue through advertising, station media, train media, retail utilization, digital engagement, asset monetization and other innovative Non-Fare Revenue avenues, with an objective to fetch the Non Fare Revenue more than existing earning in future.
Website:-EOI Document Download: <https://cor.indianrailways.gov.in>
Last Date & Time for Submission: 04.02.2026 upto to 15:00 hrs
Mode of Submission: • Sealed cover in Drop Box by speed post at Office of Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager, DRM Office, Commercial Branch, Modi Khana, Solapur-410001 (Maharashtra) • By Email: drbcm@sur.railnet.gov.in
Central Railway reserves the right to accept, reject or cancel the EOI process at any stage without assigning any reason.
Senior Divisional Commercial Manager 06 Solapur
Traveling with dangerous and explosive goods is a punishable offense

Government of Jharkhand

Jharkhand Flying Institute
A Society Regd. Under Department of Cabinet Secretariat & Vigilance (Civil Aviation Division)
State Hangar, Birsna Munda Airport Road, Hinoo Ranchi-834002
E-mail-jfi.govtfly@gmail.com, Website-www.jharkhandaviation.in
Tender Ref. No.- Crew Training-26/2025-JFI-51Date :- 22.01.2026
e-Procurement Notice
Jharkhand Flying Institute invites bid through GeM portal for Establishment and operation of full fledged Air Hostess, Crew Ground Training/ Handler & Establishment of MRO on PPP Mode. The detail tender including start and last date of submission etc. can be seen on website www.gem.gov.in with GeM Auction Notice Numer-29844.
Interested bidder can submit their bid only through GeM Portal.
Sd/-
(Capt. S. P. Sinha)
Managing Director Jharkhand Flying Institute
PR 371444 (Civil Aviation)25-26'D

Government of India

Department of Space
Indian Space Research Organisation
Space Applications Centre, Ahmedabad-380015
Advertisement No.: SAC:01:2026: Dated: 23.01.2026

Space Applications Centre (SAC) invites applications from eligible candidates for the post of **Scientist/Engineer 'SD'** in SAC, Ahmedabad and for the post of **Scientist/Engineer 'SC'** in SAC, Ahmedabad, NRSC, Hyderabad, NESAC, Meghalaya and VSSC, Thiruvananthapuram in various fields.

For Scientists/Engineer 'SD': Applications will be received on-line through **ISRO Live Register portal** only. Accordingly, candidates are advised to either register or update their registrations in the Live Register portal of ISRO <https://www.isro.gov.in> under 'Careers' tab on or before 12.02.2026 (1700 hours). Live register portal can directly be accessed on <https://liveregister.isro.gov.in/LRCLient>.

For Scientists/Engineer 'SC': Interested candidates may visit our website <https://www.sac.gov.in> OR <https://careers.sac.gov.in> for detailed advertisement and registering the applications online. Applications will be received ONLINE only. The site will remain open from **1000 hrs. on 23.01.2026 to 1700 hrs. on 12.02.2026** for online registration, filling up of online application and payment of application fees.

Any Addendum/Update/Corrigendum will only be published on SAC website. Candidates should regularly visit the SAC website www.sac.gov.in for latest updates.

CBC 49107/11/0022/2526

IndiGo Q3 net profit plunges 78% to Rs 549 crore

Ops disruptions cause Rs 577-cr financial impact

NEW DELHI, PTI

India's largest airline IndiGo on Thursday reported a 78% decline in December quarter net profit at Rs 549.1 crore, as flight disruptions and implementation of the new labour codes took a toll on its earnings.

The airline reported a net profit of Rs 549.1 crore in the October-December quarter, compared with Rs 2,448.8 crore earnings in the year-ago period, according to a statement. The company said it took a hit of Rs 1,546.5 crore in the third quarter. This included Rs 577.2 crore due to massive flight disruptions witnessed during early December and another Rs 969.3 crore on account of the implementation of new labour codes.

IndiGo was slapped with a fine of Rs 22.2 crore for the flight disruptions, which it has accounted for in

exceptional items.

Currency movement related to dollar-based future obligations aggregated to Rs 1,035 crore in the December quarter.

In the third quarter of the current fiscal, InterGlobe Aviation, the parent of IndiGo, recorded a total income of Rs 24,540.6 crore, higher than Rs 22,992.8 crore posted in the year-ago period.

IndiGo CEO Pieter Elbers said in the December quarter, the company faced major operational disruptions that resulted in significant flight cancellations and delays from December 3-5. "Despite these operational disruptions, IndiGo delivered a topline of around 245 billion rupees in the December quarter, reflecting a growth of around 7% with a reported profit of around 5 billion rupees and an underlying profit excluding exceptional items and forex of 31 billion rupees," Elbers said.



In the December quarter, the airline carried nearly 32 million passengers, and the total number of passengers flown last year stood at around 124 million.

"Exceptional items for the quarter ended December 2025 were Rs 15,465 million, including estimated provision towards implementation of new labour laws of Rs 9,693 million, costs related to operational disruptions of Rs 5,550 million and penalty of Rs 222 million as per the DGCA order," the release said.

For the coming March quar-

ter, the airline has projected capacity growth of around 10% in terms of ASKs (Available Seat Kilometres) compared to the year-ago period. The growth will be largely on the international routes.

The airline's fleet had 440 planes at the end of the December quarter.

"Our long-term fundamentals remain strong, backed by our expanding fleet, growing domestic and international network," Elbers said.

During an analysts call to discuss the results, Elbers stressed that there are no

changes in the long term plans and also added that in-depth review is being done with respect to the disruptions.

Internal processes are also being strengthened, he added.

At the end of December, the airline had a total cash balance of Rs 51,606.9 crore, comprising Rs 36,944.5 crore of free cash and Rs 14,662.4 crore of restricted cash.

"The capitalised operating lease liability was Rs 524,784 million. The total debt (including the capitalised operating lease liability) was Rs 768,583 million," the release said.

Markets rebound on easing geopolitical tensions

MUMBAI, PTI

Benchmark equity indices Sensex and Nifty rebounded on Thursday after three sessions of losses, tracking gains in global markets after US President Donald Trump struck a conciliatory tone on Greenland.

In a volatile session, the 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 397.74 points, or 0.49%, to close at 82,307.37. During the day, the benchmark surged by 873.55 points, or 1.06%, to hit an intraday high of 82,783.18.

The 50-share NSE Nifty rose 132.40 points, or 0.53%, to settle at 25,289.90. In the intraday session, the index appreciated by 278.25 points, or 1.10%, to hit a high of 25,435.75.

Among the 30 Sensex constituents, Bharat Electronics Ltd, Tata Steel, Adani Ports, State Bank of India, Bajaj Finserv, Asian Paints, Power Grid, Sun Pharmaceuticals, Kotak Mahindra Bank, IndiGo, Hindustan Unilever, HCL Technologies and NTPC were the gainers. On the other hand, Eternal, Titan, ICICI Bank, Maruti Suzuki India, and HDFC Bank were among the laggards.

Rupee recovers from all-time low to settle slightly higher at 91.58/USD

MUMBAI, PTI: The rupee rebounded from its all-time low levels and ended with a gain of 7 paise at 91.58 against the US dollar on Thursday, on suspected RBI intervention and a positive trend in domestic equities.

Forex traders said comments from US President Donald Trump at Davos helped shift sentiment, as he confirmed that a framework for a future

Greenland agreement has been reached and that tariffs scheduled for February 1 would not be implemented.

At the interbank foreign exchange, the rupee opened at 91.54 and then gained ground to touch an intraday high of 91.48 against the greenback. It touched a low of 91.68 before settling for the day at 91.58, up 7 paise from its all-time low levels.



"Indian equity markets ended Thursday with moderate gains after paring early advances, supported by positive global cues and easing geopolitical concerns. Sentiment improved following Trump's withdrawal of tariff threats against the EU and his optimistic remarks on a potential India-US trade deal, which encouraged short-covering and risk-taking," Gaurav Garg, Research Analyst at Lemonn

Markets Desk, said.

Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Investments Ltd, said the initial set of corporate earnings did little to support current valuation levels.

Nevertheless, investors have not ruled out the potential upside from a robust domestic demand environment, which could become more visible in the upcoming round of quarterly earnings announcements.

Gold, silver prices decline from record peaks as global rally eases

NEW DELHI, PTI: Gold and silver prices retreated from record highs in the national capital on Thursday, as investors turned to profit-booking amid subdued global cues and easing demand for safe-haven assets, according to the All India Sarafa Association.

The yellow metal of 99.9% purity declined by Rs 2,500, or 1.56%, to Rs 1,57,200 per 10 grams (inclusive of all taxes) on Thursday, after closing at the highest-ever level of Rs 1,59,700 per 10 grams in the previous session. Silver ended its unprecedented nine-day rally, tumbling by Rs 14,300,

or 4.3%, to Rs 3,20,000 per kg (inclusive of all taxes) from the previous close of Rs 3,34,300 per kg. The white metal surged by Rs 11,300 on Wednesday.

According to FOREX.com, gold slipped by \$8.80, or 0.18%, to \$4,822.65 per ounce. "Spot gold is trading lower at around \$4,820 per ounce level after US President Trump ruled out forceful takeover of Greenland in his speech in World Economic Forum on Wednesday," Praveen Singh, Research Analyst, Mirae Asset Sharekhan, said.

Spot silver was trading 0.27% higher at \$93.36 per ounce in overseas trade.

TVS Emerald raises Rs 425 cr

BENGALURU, DHNS: Realty firm TVS Emerald on Thursday announced an investment of Rs 425 crore in the nature of equity from the International Finance Corporation (IFC). The investment will be used to develop two residential projects to be launched in FY27 — Pallavaram-Thorai-pakkam Radial Road in Chennai, with an investment of Rs 136 crore, and Sathanur in Bengaluru, with an investment of Rs 103 crore. The rest will be earmarked for additional projects.

State approves setting up of AI Centre of Excellence

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Department of Electronics, IT and Biotechnology, Government of Karnataka, has approved the establishment of an Artificial Intelligence Centre of Excellence (AI-CoE), named Centre for Applied AI for Tech Solutions (CATS), to accelerate AI adoption, Industry 4.0 innovation, and digital transformation across sectors.

The Centre will be established at the KEONICS facility in HSR Layout in partnership with NASSCOM, with a total outlay of Rs 20 crore over four years. The funding will follow a 40:40:20 model with contributions from MeitY, Government of Karnataka, and industry partners, the department said in a statement.

The AI-CoE will focus on priority areas including AI, robotics and automation, supply-chain optimisation, and digital transformation. The initiative aims to strengthen Karnataka's innovation ecosystem by supporting start-ups, MSMEs, industry players, research institutions, and academia.

The initiative envisages collaboration with global technology and industry leaders. Over the next four years, the Centre is expected to establish advanced laboratories and testing facilities, support deeptech start-ups, and facilitate proof-of-concepts, industry collaborations, and technology commercialisation.

Priyank Kharge, Minister for Electronics, IT, Biotechnology and Science & Technology, said, "This is Karnataka's deeptech decade, and the CATS AI Centre of Excellence will be a launchpad for deeptech start-ups and industry collaborations. By bringing government, academia, and industry together, we are building a pipeline from research to market-ready innovation."

Mphasis Q3 profit rises to Rs 442 cr

NEW DELHI, PTI: Technology solutions provider Mphasis on Thursday posted a 3.3% increase in consolidated net profit to Rs 442.18 crore in the third quarter of FY26, up from Rs 427.80 crore in the same period of FY25.

The company's revenue from operations rose 12.3% in the December quarter to Rs 4,002.57 crore, as compared to Rs 3,561.33 crore in the year-ago period.

Mphasis recorded new TCV wins worth \$428 million during the quarter under review, 62% of which the firm said were AI-led. Mphasis said there is a "strong direct correlation between TCV and revenue". Four large deals, including two worth over \$50 million, were signed during the quarter.

Seen sequentially, the firm's profit fell 5.7%, while revenue increased by 2.57%.

The company recorded a one-time impact (Rs 35.4 crore) of the New Labour Codes. Growth in Q3 FY26 was led by banking-financial services; and insurance verticals, alongside strong sequential growth across all geographies, the company said.

Mphasis expects more than 2X industry growth, on the back of the performance during the nine months of FY26, steady conversion of robust TCV wins into revenue, and a steady ramp-up of large deals in upcoming quarters.

"Our Mphasis NeoIP, AI platform, is supersizing our pipeline and deals, paving the way for faster revenue growth and continued gains in wallet share-driven wins," said Mphasis CEO and MD Nitin Rakesh.



Priyank kharge

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Walmart to trim PhonePe stake by 12%

Tiger Global to exit through firm's \$1.5-bn IPO

NEW DELHI, PTI

Walmart will trim its stake in PhonePe by about 12%, while other backers such as Microsoft and Tiger Global will offload all their holdings in the digital payments company's IPO, touted as India's biggest since October.

Bengaluru-based PhonePe plans to sell 5.07 crore shares, entirely by existing shareholders, with no additional capital, according to an updated draft prospectus filed to Sebi.

The offering may raise up to \$1.5 billion, valuing the company at about \$15 billion. This will be the biggest IPO since Tata Capital's \$1.7 billion share sale in October.

PhonePe, which competes with Google Pay and Paytm, aims to list by mid-2026.

Walmart, which holds 71.77% in PhonePe through its entity WM Digital Commerce Holdings, plans to sell as many as 4.59 crore shares, representing about 9% of the company.

Smaller shareholders, JPMorgan Chase, Citi, JM Financial Services Ltd, Morgan Stanley, and Jefferies Financial Group are among the book-running lead managers for the offering.



The Walmart group firm had last raised Rs 7,021 crore (around \$850 million) at a pre-money valuation of \$12 billion (about Rs 1 lakh crore) from investors like General Atlantic, Walmart, Ribbit Capital, TVS Capital Funds, and Tiger Global in the financial year 2022-23.

Founded in 2016, PhonePe has raised around Rs 18,000 crore to date.

PhonePe leads India's digital payments market with over 45% market share in UPI transactions.

In December 2025, the company processed 9.8 billion transactions, according to NPCI data.

The company posted revenue of Rs 7,115 crore for FY 24-25, a 40% year-on-year increase. The company also turned free cash flow positive with an operating cash flow of Rs 1,202 crore. Its adjusted profit after tax (excluding ESOP costs) more than tripled to Rs 630 crore.

PhonePe's public listing is expected to set a benchmark for India's digital payments sector and could pave the way for other fintech unicorns eyeing public markets.

RPSG Group to invest Rs 10,500 cr in Vijayapura and Ballari

BENGALURU, DHNS: The RPSG Group, a major player in the renewable energy sector, will invest Rs 10,500 crore over the next three years in Vijayapura and Ballari districts. Large and Medium Industries Minister MB Patil said in a statement issued from Davos on Thursday.

Similarly, the Inox-GFL Group, which has already commenced turbine blade manufacturing for the wind energy sector at Kustagi, is planning to set up a facility to manufacture large wind power towers at a nearby location in the coming days.

The Ramky Group, which specialises in waste management, has expressed interest in setting up Common Effluent Treatment Plants (CETPs) in KIADB industrial areas across the State. Discussions have also been held with the group on establishing a Pharma Park in Karnataka. Tech Ma-

hindra Limited, meanwhile, has shown interest in making industrial investments in Tier-2 cities of the State, he added.

Patil also held discussions with representatives of the Singapore Economic Development Board (EDB), functioning under Singapore's Ministry of Trade and Industry, on the establishment of a 'Singapore Park' in Karnataka.

There are significant opportunities for collaboration with Singapore in sectors such as semiconductors, biotechnology and aerospace, he said.

He also held discussions with Lenovo, a leading manufacturer of personal computers, laptops, tablets and smartphones, Axon Cables, which operates in the defence sector, Boston Consulting Group (BCG), on future strategies related to tariffs, artificial intelligence and emerging technologies.



MB Patil

VISVESVARAYA TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY
"Jnana Sangama" Belagavi - 590018, Karnataka State

No.: VTU/BGM/RE/2025-26 /IFT No. 124 /5597 Date: 22-01-2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION
Two Cover System (KPP Portal Only)
Exclusively for Scheduled Tribe Category Applicants

The e-Tender is invited in duplicate from eligible tenderers, registered Contractor, by the Registrar, Visvesvaraya Technological University, "Jnana Sangama", Belagavi-18, under standard tender document procedure K/W format for the work of **Construction of Seminar halls & staff rooms for UG at Second floor in CPGS building including Electrification, Networking & AC at VTU, Regional Centre, Kalaburagi** amounting to **Rs.85,59,787/- (Excluding GST)**. Other details log on to Website <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> on 23-01-2026.

Sd/- Registrar
VTU, Belagavi

DIPR/Belagavi/1678/Adverto/2025-26

BENGALURU EAST CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer, TEC Division, Zone-1
BECC, Bellandur Main Road, Bellanduru, Bengaluru-560103.

No. BECC/EE/TEC/Z-1/TN/02/2025-26 Date: 22-01-2026

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER -2nd Call

Two Cover System (Only through GoK KPP Portal)

The Executive Engineer, TEC Division, Zone-1, BECC, Bengaluru on behalf of the Commissioner, BECC invites Tenders from eligible contractors registered in BECC or equivalent registration with Labour Department or any State Govt. Organisations for the following works.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work
1	Collection of Parking Fees for ITPL Main Road, 2nd Main Road, Hoodi Main Road, Channasandra Main Road, Nagondahalli Main Road, Borewell Road.

Minimum Reserve Annual License Fee : **Rs. 72,00,000/-**. EMD: **Rs. 1,44,000/-**. Period of Tender: **3 years + 2 years of extension.**

Calendar of Events: (1) Tender documents may be downloaded from KPP Portal <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> from **29.01.2026**. (2) Last date of submission of queries : **31.01.2026 within 11.00 am**. (3) Date of Pre-bid meeting : **31.01.2026 at 4.00 pm**. (4) Last date for receipt of tenders : **06.02.2026 upto 4.00 pm**. (5) Date of opening of technical bid : **07.02.2026 at 4.00 pm**. (6) Date of opening of Financial bid: **09.02.2026 at 11.30 am**. Further details may be obtained from the above office during office hours or from KPP Portal <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in>

Sd/- Executive Engineer
TEC Division, Zone-1, BECC

BIG SPENDING

Indian travel to US stays strong, arrivals top 2 mn for second straight year

HRITHIK KIRAN BAGADE
BENGALURU, DHNS

Despite the ongoing geopolitical churn, the United States continues to remain a popular destination for Indian travellers, who fly to the country for leisure, business, family visits, and unique experiences. The US expects at least 2.1 million Indian traveller footfalls this year, crossing the 2-million mark for the second consecutive year.

India continues to play a significant role in US

inbound travel. "In 2024, Indian travellers accounted for 6% of overseas arrivals to the US, excluding Canada and Mexico — up from 4% in 2019. Arrivals surpassed 2 million in 2025 for the second year in a row, with visitation remaining approximately 40% above pre-pandemic levels," according to Brand USA, the destination marketing organisation for the US.

Looking ahead, arrivals from India to the US is forecast to reach 2.3 million by 2028. "This reinforces



Fred Dixon

the market's importance to future visitation, spending, and economic impact across US destinations. India now

ranks second globally for total visitor spending, with Indian travellers generating \$24.4 billion in the US in 2024 alone," Brand USA President and CEO Fred Dixon told DH.

"It also indicates the incredible growth of the Indian outbound market and the continued popularity of the US as a destination. The Indian traveller is sophisticated and aware, and seeks unique experiences," Dixon said on the sidelines of Brand USA Travel Week India, held recently in Bengaluru.

Based on arrivals data, the most sought-after US destinations among Indian tourists include New York, California, and Florida. Natural attractions such as the Grand Canyon and America's vast national parks also remain major draws.

FIFA fever

"Big trends drive travel to the US. This year it's sports," Dixon said, pointing to the FIFA World Cup 2026, scheduled across 11 US cities, with the final to be played at the New York-New Jersey Stadium.

The US will also host the Summer Olympics in 2028, followed by the Rugby World Cups in 2031 (Men) and 2033 (Women), and the Winter Olympics in 2034. The 2024 ICC Men's T20 World Cup, held partly in the US, also drew strong interest from Indian fans.

Addressing concerns around Indian traveller sentiment in the current situation, Dixon said, "There is no negative sentiment. There is a deep people-to-people connection, and histories between our people."

Ashwa Pathan
claims
Janpath Plate

DELHI RESULTS
S Nawab-trained Ashwa Pathan, ridden by A S Peter, won the Janpath Plate, the feature event of the Delhi races on Thursday.
1. India Gate Plate - 1600M: Jet Space (Ajay Kumar) Saurav Rawat 1; Banksy (Sunny Kumar) 2; Personal (Akash Rajput) 3; Khazanchi (Arjun) 4; Wb: 6-1/4, 3-3/4, 3/4L. T: 1-42.44. TB: Zulfiqar Khan. Fav: Jet Space.
2. Janpath Plate - 1600M: Ashwa Pathan (Ravinder Pal Singh) A S Peter 1; Tripurari (Rakesh) 2; Eyes On The Prize (Akash Rajput) 3; Bison (Riazuddin) 4; Wb: 5, 3-3/4L, 14-1/4L. T: 1-39.55. TB: S Nawab. Fav: Ashwa Pathan.
3. Rajpath Plate - 1100M: Master Multitude (Master Racing Ltd) Faizan Khan 1; Time To Win (Abdul Fazal) 2; Cool Water (Saurav Rawat) 3; Chieftain (A S Peter) 4; Wb: 1-1/4, 3-3/4, 1-1/4L. 1-05.28. TB: S M Abbas. Fav: Master Multitude.
4. Republic Day Plate (Div-I) - 1200M: Winning Legacy (Rajinder) Akash Rajput 1; Salam Bhai (R N Manjhi) 2; Shahzada (Sunny Kumar) 3; Dubai Falcon (Vishal) 4; Wb: 3-3/4, 1-3/4, 3/4L. T: 1-12.23. TB: Rajinder. Fav: Winning Legacy.
5. Republic Day Plate (Div-II) - 1200M: Missey Boy (S M Abbas) Vishal Shivhare 1; Little More (Narendra Kumar) 2; Divine Right (Sunny Kumar) 3; Insta Millionaire (Rakesh) 4; Wb: 2-1/4, 3/4, 1-3/4L. T: 1-10.84. TB: S M Abbas. Fav: Little More.
6. Constitution Of India Plate - 1000M: Lucky Lips (Bhagat Singh) Rakesh 1; Super Speed (Vishal Shivhare) 2; Cashier (Saurav Rawat) 3; Sir Mor (Aasif Khan) 4; Not Run: Nizabti Malang. Wb: 1-1/2, 1, 2-1/2L. T: 1-10.12. TB: V S Parmar. Fav: Lucky Lips.
Bengaluru dividends
I race: Rs 14w; 10, 21p; Fc: Rs 23; Q: Rs 13; Shp: Rs 18; Thp: Rs 24; Tri: Rs 41 & 20.
II race: Rs 14w; 12, 18p; Fc: Rs 29; Q: Rs 27; Shp: Rs 20; Thp: Rs 23; Tri: Rs 23 & 10.
III race: Rs 20w; 11, 29, 20p; Fc: Rs 253; Q: Rs 163; Shp: Rs 70; Thp: Rs 46; Tri: Rs 1,822 & 475; Ex: Rs 2,755 & 644.
IV race: Rs 17w; 11, 13, 26p; Fc: Rs 78; Q: Rs 83; Shp: Rs 40; Thp: Rs 30; Tri: Rs 510 & 172; Ex: Rs 1,892 & 766.
V race: Rs 81w; 12, 12, 25p; Fc: Rs 275; Q: Rs 86; Shp: Rs 25; Thp: Rs 87; Tri: Rs 2,410 & 1,894; Ex: Rs 30,963 & 3,317.
VI race: Rs 20w; 11, 15, 15p; Fc: Rs 104; Q: Rs 52; Shp: Rs 36; Thp: Rs 21; Tri: Rs 169 & 114; Ex: Rs 3,407 & 2,555.
Jackpot: Rs 4,244 (49). **Runner-up:** Rs 484 (184). **Treble:** Rs 488 (145).

Duke of Tuscany
for Indian
Champion Cup

KOLKATA SELECTIONS
Pesi Shroff-trained Duke Of Tuscany, to be ridden by Sunny Narredu, is fancied to win the Indian Champion Cup, the feature event of the Calcutta races to be run over a distance of mile and a quarter at the races on Friday.
First race starts at 1.30 pm.
1. Ophion Handicap - 1200M: Soul Aquarian 1, Diamond Gold 2, Tesha 3.
2. Aggregated Plate - 1100M: Ramtha 1, Silver Dream 2, Star Limer 3.
3. Police Cup - 1400M: Immortal Beauty 1, Brave Majesty 2, Sky Hawk 3.
4. Zelda Cup - 1600M: Mindful 1, Cigar Galaxy 2 True Faith 3.
5. Albert Piperno Memorial Cup - 2000M: Whirlwind 1, Zarak 2, Ruling Star 3.
6. Indian Champion Cup - 2000M: Duke Of Tuscany 1, Trakila 2, Golden Kingdom 3.
7. Dancing Phoenix Handicap - 1400M: Keitaro 1, Jimmy Bee 2, Seina 3.
Day's best: Whirlwind.
Jackpot: 3, 4, 5, 6 & 7. **I treble:** 2, 3 & 4. **II treble:** 5, 6 & 7.

Gautam,
Vaibhavi bag
100m gold

TUMKURU, DHNS: Gautam M of Shivamogga and Vaibhavi Badruk of Belagavi clinched gold medals in the men's and women's 100m races respectively on the concluding day of the Karnataka Games at the Mahatma Gandhi Stadium.
Bengaluru Rural defeated Bengaluru Urban 39-27 in the men's final of the handball tournament at the Tumkur University Grounds. In the women's title clash, hosts Tumakuru beat Hassan 25-20.
Bengaluru Urban beat Dakshina Kannada 18-15 to clinch boys' gold medal in kho kho while the Mysore trounced Bengaluru Urban by an innings and 3 points in the corresponding girls' title clash.
Results (winners only): Athletics: Men: 100m: Gautam M (10.40s); **5000m:** Vaibhav M Patil (15:43.60); **400m hurdles:** Veeresh B Kamble (55.0); **High jump:** Abhay Kumar Gowda (2.03m); **Shot put:** Prajwal M Shetty (15.37); **Javelin throw:** Kallolappa (65.07m); **Hammer throw:** Dheeraj Poojary (55.50m). **Women: 100m:** Vaibhavi Badruk (12.21s); **5000m:** NL Tejaswi (17:42.00); **400m hurdles:** Megha Munavalli Mutt (1:02.70); **High jump:** Trishnavi (1.55m). **Handball (finals): Men:** Bengaluru Rural bt Bengaluru Urban 39-27; **Women:** Tumakuru bt Hassan 25-20.
Kho Kho (Finals): Men: Bengaluru Urban bt Dakshina Kannada 18-15; **Women:** Mysuru bt Bengaluru Urban by an innings and 3 points. **Wrestling: Men: 55 kg:** Shivappa S Jambagi; **67 kg:** Keerthan DC; **82 kg:** Hanumanth N Channal; **87 kg:** Mutha Ramesh Bavi; **97 kg:** Hanumantha Vittala Kempannavar; **130 kg:** Srujan S. **Women: 50 kg:** Yashaswini N; **53 kg:** Nandini; **65 kg:** Bhagyavathi (Haliyali); **62 kg:** Savitha A Siddhi; **72 kg:** Tejaswini.

SPORT

TENNIS AUSTRALIAN OPEN

Retiring Wawrinka wows the crowd

Djokovic, Sinner plough on as Swiatek, Osaka notch up wins

MELBOURNE, AFP
Novak Djokovic and Jan-nik Sinner barrelled ominously into the Australian Open third round on Thursday as 40-year-old Stan Wawrinka survived an epic to make Grand Slam history.
An erratic Madison Keys did enough to keep her title defence on track and Iga Swiatek and Naomi Osaka also triumphed on a sunny but cooler Melbourne Park day five.
The tournament fell briefly silent in the evening to remember the 15 people killed at Bondi Beach last month by gunmen who opened fire on a Jewish festival.
Djokovic sent 141st-ranked qualifier Francesco Maestrelli packing in straight sets at Rod Laver Arena.
The Serbian great is on his latest mission to win a record 25th Grand Slam title and dismissed the Italian 6-3, 6-2, 6-2.
Djokovic faces 75th-ranked Botic van de Zandschulp of the Netherlands next.
Djokovic is well known for his sometimes unusual preparations, which include hugging a Brazilian fig tree



Stan Wawrinka celebrates after winning a five-setter against France's Arthur Gea to become the first player aged 40 or over to reach the men's third round at a Slam since Ken Rosewall at the Australian Open in 1978. AFP

over the line 6-1, 7-5 against fellow American Ashlyn Krueger.
Keys, who upset Aryna Sabalenka in last year's final, admitted after her laboured first-round win that she was a bundle of nerves and "too timid".
Second seed Swiatek, who has won six major titles but never been successful in Melbourne, was in cruise control against Marie Bouzkova of the Czech Republic, 6-2, 6-3.
Two-time former champion Naomi Osaka, who made a grand entrance in the first round in a jellyfish-inspired outfit, was error-strewn in beating Romania's Sorana Cirstea, 6-3, 4-6, 6-2.
Yuki-Nicole ousted India's Yuki Bhambri and his American partner Nicole Melichar-Martinez crashed out of

the mixed doubles competition in the Australian Open after losing to the German-Chinese duo of Tim Putz and Zhang Shuai here on Thursday, reports PTI.
Bhambri and Melichar-Martinez lost 6-3, 1-6 (10-6) to the sixth-seeded Putz and Shuai.
Bhambri's campaign in the year's first Grand Slam is, however, not over yet as he remains in fray in the men's doubles event.

Key results: 2nd round (prefix denotes seeding): Men: 5-Lorenzo Musetti (Ita) bt Lorenzo Sonego (Ita) 6-3, 6-3, 6-4; Tomas Machac (Cze) bt 31-Stefanos Tsitsipas (Gre) 6-4, 3-6, 7-6 (5), 7-6 (5); Stan Wawrinka (Sui) bt Arthur Gea (Fra) 4-6, 6-3, 3-6, 7-5, 7-6 (3); 9-Taylor Fritz (USA) bt Vit Koprieva (Cze) 6-1, 6-4, 7-6 (4); 4-Novak Djokovic (Srb) bt Francesco Maestrelli (Ita) 6-3, 6-2, 6-2; 8-Ben Shelton (USA) bt Dane Sweneey (Aus) 6-3, 6-2, 6-2; 2-Jannik Sinner (Ita) bt James Duckworth (Aus) 6-1, 6-4, 6-2. **Women:** 6-Jessica Pegula (USA) bt McCartney Kessler (USA) 6-0, 6-2; 9-Madison Keys (USA) bt Ashlyn Krueger (USA) 6-1, 7-5; 16-Naomi Osaka (Jpn) bt Sorana Cirstea (Rom) 6-3, 4-6, 6-2; 2-Iga Swiatek (Pol) bt Marie Bouzkova (Cze) 6-2, 6-3.

K'taka fight back to grab honours

Vyshak, Shreyas strike as Madhya Pradesh end day 1 at 244/5

VIGNESH BHARADWAJ
BENGALURU, DHNS

The Karnataka attack survived a tough test of character on an unresponsive Alur (I) surface to walk back with equal honours on the opening day of their sixth Ranji Trophy Elite Group B fixture against Madhya Pradesh in Bengaluru here on Thursday.
On a day when Venkatesh Iyer (87, 135b, 12x4) struck a fidgety yet effective half-century, Karnataka fought back in the final session, as the visitors paid the price for some lethargic batting towards the end and were reduced to 244/5 in 90 overs at stumps.
Venkatesh appeared iffy throughout his 176-minute stay at the crease, but had managed to place visitors in a comfortable position before Karnataka dictated terms with the ball in the second half of the opening day's play.
Vyshak Vijaykumar (2/51), who was declared fit after he had left the field during the Vijay Hazare Trophy semifinals due to a suspected concussion, inspired Karnataka's charge along with the reliable Shreyas Gopal (2/53).
Earlier in the day and after being asked to bowl, there was not much in the surface for the Karnataka bowlers as Yash Dubey (29, 57b, 6x4) and Himanshu Mantri (39, 114b, 4x4) negated the new ball with ease,



Karnataka's Vyshak Vijaykumar celebrates after picking up one of his two wickets during day 1 of their Ranji Trophy game against Madhya Pradesh. DH PHOTO/ PRASHANTH HG

stitching a 53-run partnership.
While Karnataka quicks Vidwath Kaverappa (0/27) and Vidyadhar Patil (0/33) showcased immaculate control without any returns on a track that was good for batting, they might have missed the trick by not challenging the outside edge often.
After the first drinks break, Shikhar Shetty (1/70) bowled one fuller and angled it in, as Yash went for a needless expansive shot and hit it straight to Vidyadhar at mid-on.
In the post-lunch session, Shrijith KL injured his fingers (right hand) while trying to grab a delivery down leg side, and skipper Mayank Agarwal was forced off the field, feeling a little feverish.
Mantri, who came into the game having scored just 181 runs in his last eight first-class innings, showed signs of quality before a lapse in concentration

SCOREBOARD
MADHYA PRADESH (I Innings): Yash Dubey c Vidyadhar b Shikhar 29 (54b, 6x4), Himanshu Mantri lbw Vyshak 39 (114b, 4x4), Shubham Sharma c sub Kruthik b Shreyas 33 (151b, 2x4), Venkatesh Iyer c Vidwath b Vyshak 87 (135b, 12x4), Rajat Patidar c Aneesh b Shreyas 30 (48b, 4x4), Saransh Jain 6 (batting), Aryan Pandey 5 (batting), Extras (W-6, B-4, LB-5) 15. **TOTAL (for 5 wkts, 90 overs) 244.**
Fall of wickets: 1-53 (Yash), 2-89 (Mantri), 3-164 (Shubham), 4-233 (Venkatesh), 5-233 (Patidar).
Bowling: Vidwath Kaverappa 12-4-27-0, Vidyadhar Patil 13-2-33-0, Vyshak Vijaykumar 16-4-51-2, Shikhar Shetty 27-4-70-1, Shreyas Gopal 21-6-53-2, Karun Nair 1-0-1-0. **Group B brief scores: In Mangalapuram:** Kerala: 139 all out in 56 overs (Sachin Baby 41, B Aparajith 49, Rohit Dhanda 3-27, Nishunk Birla 4-40, Jagjit Singh 2-17) vs Chandigarh: 142/1 in 34 overs (Arjun Azad 78 n.o., Manan Vohra 51 n.o.). **In Saurashtra:** Saurashtra: 172 all out in 47.1 overs (Jay Gohil 82, Pre-rak Mankad 37, Harpreet Brar 6-38, Jassinder 2-71) & 24/3 in 6 overs vs Punjab: 139 all out in 40.1 overs (Prabhsimran Singh 44, Anmolpreet Singh 35; Ravindrasingh A Jadeja 2-48, DA Jadeja 2-36, Parth Bhut 5-33). **In Pune:** GoA: 209 all out in 82.1 overs (Snehal Kauthankar 62, Lalit Yadav 33; Jalaj Saxena 6-79, Vicky Ostwal 2-47) vs Maharashtra: 19/0 in 5 overs.

of him in the 83rd over when he tried to hook Vyshak but hit it straight down deep fine leg's throat.
Rajat Patidar, (30, 48b) on the other hand, was happy to bide time early on. Just when he was starting to look good and at ease, Shreyas was given a second wicket in the 86th over.
What Madhya Pradesh would rue is that three of their top-four batters played in excess of 110 deliveries but failed to convert it into something substantial.

Premier League
teams make a mark

MANCHESTER, AP
Premier League teams are powering ahead in the Champions League with five of England's top flight clubs in position to advance to the round of 16.
Arsenal top the standings and have already secured their place in the next round, while wins for Liverpool, Newcastle and Chelsea on Wednesday saw them move into the top eight automatic qualifying positions with one game of the league phase to go.
Tottenham are fifth, with Manchester City the only English team in the playoff positions going into next week's matches.
Liverpool are fourth after a 3-0 win at Marseille. Newcastle beat PSV Eindhoven by the same score and Chelsea won 1-0 against Pafos.
Bayern Munich are second and joined Arsenal in advancing to the round of 16 with Harry Kane scoring twice in a 2-0 win over Union Saint-Gilloise.
Barcelona are in ninth place after a 4-2 win at Slavia Prague and risk having to go through the playoffs to advance.

Kane again
Kane scored goals number 35 and 36 in a remarkable season for the Bayern striker — but he was left to rue missing out on a fourth hat trick of the season when his second-half penalty struck the crossbar.
The England captain scored twice in the space of three minutes in the second half against Union Saint-Gilloise — first with a near-post



Robert Lewandowski

Sindhu, Lakshya surge into quarterfinals

JAKARTA, PTI: Top Indian shuttlers P V Sindhu and Lakshya Sen entered the quarterfinals of USD 500,000 Indonesia Masters badminton tournament after securing straight-game wins in their respective round-of-16 matches here on Thursday.
Lakshya, a 2021 world championships bronze medalist, prevailed over Hong Kong China's Jason Gunawan 21-10, 21-11 in a contest that lasted a little over half an hour.
The 24-year-old from Almora, who won the Australian Open last year, will meet Thailand's rising talent Panitchaphon Teerarat-sakul, who knocked out Paris bronze medalist Lee Zii Jia of Malaysia.
Sindhu, a two-time Olympic medalist, notched up a 21-19, 21-18 triumph over familiar foe Line Hojmark Kjaerfeldt of Denmark in her pre-quarterfinal that took 43 minutes to wind up.
This was Sindhu's fifth win over the Dane in their six clashes so far.
Sindhu will next be up against tournament top seed and world number four Chen Yu Fei of China in the Super 500 event.
Sindhu and Fei have faced each other 13 times so far and the latter holds a slight 7-6 edge overall.
The Indian's last win over Fei came back in 2019 and she would be eager to improve that record.
Later in the day, former world No. 1 Kidambi Srikanth, a 2021 world championships silver medalist, was too erratic to pose any challenge, going down 11-21, 10-21 to Chinese Taipei's Chou Tien Chen in a lop-sided pre-quarterfinals.

Soorma romp past SG Pipers

BHUBANESWAR, PTI: JSW Soorma Hockey Club registered a 6-1 victory over SG Pipers in the final Men's Hero Hockey India League (HIL) group stage match here on Thursday.
Needing a seven-goal win to seal their spot in Qualifier 2, Soorma made a high-intensity start, led by Jeremy Hayward's (2nd, 7th, 34th, 45th) thunderous drag-flicks and a counter-attacking strike from Lucas Marti-nez (11th).
Nicolas Keenan (47th) later helped Soorma move into touching distance of qualification in the final quarter but the SG Pipers held on in the dying minutes to break Soorma's hopes of advancing to the Qualifiers.

Real Madrid top rich list

Real Madrid stayed top of football's rich list as Liverpool outstripped their English rivals for the first time, according to Deloitte's Money League study on Thursday, reports AFP from London.
Spanish giants Madrid generated nearly 1.2 billion euros (\$1.4 billion) in revenue in the 2024/25 season despite failing to win a major trophy.
The refurbishment of the club's Santiago Bernabeu stadium into a multi-purpose venue continues to pay rich dividends — Madrid's 594 million euros of commercial revenues alone would be enough for a place in the top 10.
Barcelona climbed back into second place in Deloitte's table (975 million euros) despite delays forcing them to play the whole season away from the Camp Nou, which is still being redeveloped.
Bayern Munich were third on the list (861 million euros), marginally ahead of Paris Saint-Germain, whose income was boosted by winning the Champions League for the first time.

Gentleman footballer who became a East Bengal giant



SIDNEY KIRAN
BENGALURU, DHNS

Ilyas Pasha, one of Karnataka's finest footballers who had a decorated career with East Bengal at right wing-back and won on earn eight caps with the Indian team, passed away on

Thursday morning at his residence here following a prolonged battle with cancer.
Known for his gentlemanly conduct on and off the field and helping any person who reached out to him, especially State footballers who moved to Kolkata — the then epicentre of Indian football — the 61-year-old Pasha's ascension to the top was swift and sustained.
After starting with Vinayaka Football Club at Vyalikaval where he grew up and lived until he breathed his last, Pasha was soon picked by the Indian Telephone Industries — one of the major teams in the state — in the mid-1980s. His well-judged tackles, composed defending, astute reading of the game and ability to deliver pinpoint crosses when on the attack instantly attracted the attention of the national selectors.

He earned his first national call-up against Bulgaria in the Nehru Cup in Kozhikode on January 27, 1987. He featured in another edition of the Nehru Cup in 1991, played SAF Games the same year and the 1992 Asian Cup Qualifiers.
His performances with the Blue Tigers saw several Kolkata clubs vie for his signature, and Mohammedan Sporting were the first to have it, where he won the Sait Nagjee Trophy and the Nizam Gold Cup in 1989. It was then just a matter of time before the two giants — East Bengal and Mohun Bagan — would poach him.
East Bengal roped him in the early 1990s, and Pasha oversaw an extremely successful reign that's still spoken about highly amongst the old-timers. Apart from captaining the Red and

Gold Brigade in 1993-94 under the late great coach Subhas Bhowmick, Pasha stacked up one title after another.
He won the fiercely-fought Calcutta Football League on five occasions (1991, 1993, 1995, 1996 and 1998), the IFA Shield five times (1990, 1991, 1994, 1995 and 1997) and the Durand Cup four times (1990, 1991, 1993 and 1995).
Accolades followed in other events as well — two Rovers Cups (1990, 1994), the Federation Cup (1996), the historic Wai Wai Cup in Kathmandu (1993), Airlines Trophy titles in 1990, 1992, 1995 and 1997, the Bordoloi Trophy (1992), ATPA Shield (1992), Kalinga Cup (1993), McDowell Trophy (1995, 1997) and the Super Cup in the 1996-97 season. East Bengal bestowed Pasha with the Lifetime Achievement Award in 2012.
Given the magic he could produce at will, he was constantly courted by Bagan, but Pasha remained committed to East Bengal, often rejecting lucrative offers.
"Pasha sir had several offers, but he knew the huge amount of respect and adulation he had in East Bengal. He chose loyalty," his former team-mate Saravanan told DH.
"Also, we were room-mates for five years and he was one of most disciplined players I've seen. Sir would take me around the city and later bought me a bike, a Yamaha RX 100. He was gentle and generous to the core."
After hanging up his boots, Pasha — who is survived by his wife, two daughters and two sons — led a quiet retired life, true to his calm personality.



Aarav Sancheti

Sancheti edges Williams to wear junior snooker crown

BENGALURU, DHNS: Maharashtra's Aarav Sancheti rallied from the brink to register a 4-3 win over Rahul Williams of Tamil Nadu for his maiden junior boys' snooker title at the National Championships in Bahadurgarh, Haryana late on Wednesday evening.

Down and out for the count at 1-3 in the best-of-seven-frame title clash, the 15-year-old Pune cueist took a short break and returned rejuvenated, and with a different game plan.

Sancheti didn't go for broke like he did in the earlier frames, he began to play a percentage game. He kept Williams on a tight leash, and with the freebies having dried up, the Tamil Nadu cueist began to err.

Sancheti grabbed the chances that came his way and resorted to safety whenever he lost position. That ploy seemed to work as he began to call the shots thereafter and won the next three frames, and the title, in a canter.

Results: Snooker: Junior boys (Final): Aarav Sancheti (Mah) bt Rahul Williams (TN) 4-3 (69-75, 90-28, 56-59, 11-66, 82-25, 61-10, 59-28).

Third-place playoff: Jabez Naveen Kumar (TN) bt A Abdul Saif (TN) 2-0 (80-13, 90 (57) -22).

Billiards: Sub-junior (Semifinal): Aarav Sancheti (Mah) bt Mohammed Mustafa (Kar) 242-168; Rahul Williams (TN) bt Vaibhav Chadha (Tel) 192-109.

Gukesh beats Nguyen; Fedoseev stuns Erigaisi

WIJKAANZEE (THE NETHERLANDS), PTI: World champion D Gukesh ended his spate of draws by defeating Thai Dai Van Nguyen of Czech Republic but overnight joint leader Arjun Erigaisi was shocked by Vladimir Fedoseev of Slovenia in the fifth round of Tata Steel Masters chess tournament here.

Gukesh's timely victory ahead of the first rest day on Thursday put him on three points out of a possible five and the Indian ace went up to joint fourth spot behind three leaders.

While the game between Hans Niemann of the USA and Nodirbek Abdusattorov of Uzbekistan ended in the draw, the two were joined by latter's compatriot and World Cup winner Javokhir Sindarov who defeated young Yagiz Kaan Erdogmus after some great resistance.

With three leaders on 3.5, Gukesh shares the fourth spot with Fedoseev and Dutchman Jorden van Foreest. With nine rounds still to come in the 114-player and 13-round tournament, Erigaisi slipped to joint seventh spot on 2.5 points, a point ahead of two other Indians - Aravindh Chithambaram and R Praggnanandhaa.

ON TV

- CRICKET**
2nd T20I: India vs New Zealand (7 pm). **LIVE on Star Sports Network, JioHotstar.**
- U-19 World Cup:** Sri Lanka vs Australia, Bangladesh vs USA (1 pm). **LIVE on Star Sports Select 2, JioHotstar.**
- Ranji Trophy:** UP vs Jharkhand, Puducherry vs J&K, Gujarat vs Railways, (Day 2, 9:30 am). **LIVE on Star Sports Khel, JioHotstar.**
- BADMINTON**
Indonesia Masters: Quarterfinals (12 pm). **LIVE on Star Sports Select 1, JioHotstar.**
- TENNIS**
Australian Open: Third round (5:30 am). **LIVE on Sony Sports Network, SonyLIV.**

After a 48-run win in the opener, hosts hope to keep NZ at bay again

RAIPUR, PTI

Sanju Samson would look to hit his straps in a much-needed settled role at the top of the order, while Ishan Kishan would be better served to make the limited opportunities count in the second T20 international between India and New Zealand here on Friday.

In and out of the playing eleven for no fault of his own, Samson is now certain to get an extended run ahead of next month's T20 World Cup.

Falling to a soft dismissal in the series opener, Samson would be determined to display his wide range of shots that have helped him rack up three hundreds in the shortest format.

Another batter who needs to repay the faith of the team management is Kishan, a surprise inclusion in the World Cup squad and played ahead of Shreyas Iyer in Nagpur on Wednesday night.

The southpaw looked good in his brief stay before being caught at cover. With batting till eight, most Indians players bat in top gear trying to hit every ball out of the park. Kishan would continue with that fearless approach and can only hope that it pays off.

Focus has been on captain Suryakumar Yadav's form ahead of the ICC event and even though he could not make a major contribution, the 32 off 22 balls would have lifted his confidence by a few notches.



LIVE 7 PM
STAR SPORTS

Following a tepid outing in the opening T20I, Sanju Samson will be gunning for a fruitful knock in the second game. FILE PHOTO

Despite the individual areas of improvement emerging from an emphatic win in the first T20, the performance as a team sent ominous signals to rivals ahead of the World Cup where India go in as defending champions.

If India are to become the first team to defend the T20 World Cup title, Abhishek Sharma must continue to breathe fire at the top of the order like he did on Wednesday night.

The left-hander seems to be in the form of his life and someone who has a shown a rare ability to hit most balls out of the ground.

In the lower-order, Rinku Singh coming back into the team and firing instantly was another big positive for India. Even in the absence of

Kuldeep Yadav, the bowling department looks well rounded.

If Arshdeep Singh and Hardik Pandya keep taking wickets in powerplay, Jasprit Bumrah can be used for three overs post the powerplay, giving the side an additional weapon in the middle overs.

Largely due to the massive total, India were able to negate the dew factor in Nagpur.

"The way we batted, even after when we were put under pressure in the powerplay, we were 25-2, and then we took the game till the 15th over, and then we never stopped, all the batters I think played their role really well and I think that was a big plus point," said Suryakumar after the win.

Dew is expected here as well and no total would be safe.

Devine delivers for Gujarat

VADODARA, PTI

Sophie Devine' composed unbeaten half-century complemented by a disciplined bowling effort powered Gujarat Giants to a clinical 45-run victory over UP Warriorz in the Women's Premier League here on Thursday.

Returning to form, Devine anchored the innings with a calm 50 not out as Gujarat recovered from early hiccups to post a modest 153/8 after UPW opted to bowl.

The Giants then produced a collective bowling show to bundle out the Warriorz for a paltry 108 in 17.3 overs, snapping a three-match losing streak and returning to winning ways.

For Gujarat, veteran left-arm spinner Rajeshwari Gayakwad was the pick of their bowling, returning with 3/16 in her comeback match, while Devine (2/16 in 3.3 overs) and Renuka Singh (2/20) picked two each as Gujarat jumped to second spot in the table behind leaders Royal Challengers Bengaluru who have already qualified.

Chasing 154, UP Warriorz never really settled as two early



Sophie Devine

setbacks derailed their innings. Kiran Navgire's poor run continued when she overbalanced and was stumped off a wide in the opening over for a golden duck.

Skipper Meg Lanning and Phoebe Litchfield tried to rebuild, but Lanning fell for

14 in another slice of misfortune, stumped after the ball deflected onto the stumps, leaving the hosts rattled in the powerplay.

Skipper Ashleigh Gardner then broke the resistance by dismissing Litchfield for 32, while Harleen Deol's struggles continued with a scratchy 12-ball 3.

Rajeshwari then turned the game decisively with her best figures, removing Deepti Sharma early in her spell and striking thrice in quick succession as the Warriorz slumped to 93 for 7.

Brief scores: Gujarat Giants: 153/8 in 20 overs (Beth Mooney 38, Sophie Devine 50 n.o.; Kranti Gaud 2-18, Sophie Ecclestone 2-22) bt UP Warriorz: 108 all out in 17.3 overs (Phoebe Litchfield 32, Chloe Tryon 30; Renuka Singh 2-20, Sophie Devine 2-16, Rajeshwari Gayakwad 3-16) by 45 runs.

PoM: Sophie Devine

Women's Premier League Points Table					
Teams	P	W	L	NRR	Pts
RCB (Q)	5	5	0	+1.882	10
GG	6	3	3	-0.341	6
MI	6	2	4	+0.046	4
DC	5	2	3	-0.586	4
UPW	6	2	5	-0.769	4

Sanketh hits FAPS for a six

BENGALURU, DHNS: Sanketh Math bagged a six-for to help Presidency School, RT Nagar, score a five-wicket win over Frank Anthony Public School in a quarterfinal of Under-16 Schools (II Division) tournament for the KM Ramprasad Shield here.

LOCAL CRICKET



Sanketh claimed 6/37 as FAPS innings folded at 166 in 32.4 overs. Arnav Patil claimed 2/8 to hasten the collapse.

Presidency reached their target - 167/5 - in 26.5 overs with Vishal Reddy SV guiding the chase with an unbeaten 48.

Brief scores (Quarterfinals): Frank Anthony Public School: 166 all out in 32.4 overs (Ishaan Bohra 45, Rishi Harivatsa S 25, Harshith Raja 36;

Sanket Math 6-37, Arnav Rajiv VP 2-8) It to Presidency School, RT Nagar: 167/5 in 26.5 overs (Sathwik Rao V 39, Shubhan Hiremath 28, Vishal Reddy SV 48 n.o.; Dhruv Nambiar 2-39).

Vydehi School of Excellence: 227 all out in 46.5 overs (Panav Chawla 27, Abhaychandra Kallapur 53, Navaneeth Kothapalli 56, Shreyan Ghosh 32 n.o.; Dhruvesh 2-56, Shamanth KC Raju 2-29, Ayush Arun 3-23) It to Kensi School & College: 229/1 in 29.1 overs (Shamanth KC Raju 128 n.o., Pranad Satyanarain 53).

Triveni Memorial Educational Trust: 230 all out in 45.2 overs (Bhuvan Tejas N 103, Karthik T Bokke 37; Dhruv Acharya H 2-55, Bhumi Kumar 5-40) It to School Vivekananda: 231/6 in 40.2 overs (Dhruv Acharya H 122 n.o., S Lavith Nischal 40; Sugnantha Murthy S 2-40, Mahesh 2-29).

BGS National Public School: 297/4 in 50 overs (Sai Rochan J 95, Abhinav SS 133 n.o., Pratham Rao 36) bt Sri Sri Ravishankar Vidyamandir, East: 119 all out in 31.3 overs (Anuj V Onkar 3-15, Yaeesh Rahaman 2-27).

Gangte powers Stride FC home

BENGALURU, DHNS: Every time Ginneithang Gangte set his eyes on the goal-post, it set the scoreboard ticking as his five strikes saw Stride FC cruise to a 6-1 rout of Roots FS at the BDFA A Division Football League Championship here on Thursday.

LOCAL FOOTBALL



In the day's other game, Sochan Shatsang scored 82nd-minute winner as BTM FC edged IT FC 2-1.

Results: Stride FC: 6 (Ginneithang Gangte 4th, 25th, 58th, 70th, 78th, TH Imran Khan 5th) bt Roots FS: 1 (Karthi S 67th); BTM FC: 2 (Niranjai Babu 48th, Sochan Shatsang 82nd) bt Income Tax FC: 1 (Darin Marcel Christopher 13th); AGORC FC: 2 (Madhavan H 66th, Jaikumar V 71st) bt Sniper FC: 1 (Murshid M 2nd).

Poonawalla to table 'strong' bid for RCB

MADHU JAWALI
BENGALURU, DHNS



Adar Poonawalla

India's vaccine czar Adar Poonawalla stoked fresh conversations about the potential sale of Royal Challengers Bengaluru by stating that he would be tabling a "strong and competitive" bid for the defending Indian Premier League champions.

"Over the next few months, will be putting in a STRONG and COMPETITIVE bid for RCB, one of the best teams in the IPL," Poonawalla, Chief Executive Officer of Pune-based vaccine-maker Serum Institute of India, wrote on his official X' handle.

This is not the first time Poonawalla has expressed his interest in buying the Bengaluru-based franchise, which is facing the heat from the Karnataka state government following the June 4 stampede last year, leading to the death of 11 fans.

In October last year, Poonawalla had posted, "At the right valuation, @RCBTweets is a great team...", triggering speculations that he might be in talks with the United Spirits Ltd-owned franchise.

USL is the Indian arm of global beverage major Diageo. It's rumoured that RCB owners have valued the franchise, which perhaps has the biggest fan base among all IPL teams, at an astronomical USD 2 billion (approx Rs 18,000 crore).

The value of the franchise, however, varies according to different agencies.

Where Houlihan Lokey report estimated RCB's value to be USD 269 million last year, Forbes put it at much lower USD 105 million.

Poonawalla, the Pune-based businessman, however, may have to wait to realise his dream as the 19th edition of the league is set to commence at the end of March.

The June 4 stampede that killed 11 fans during RCB victory celebrations had also accelerated the move to sell the team.

In fact, Diageo had expressed its desire focus solely on its core business, which is alcobev business, in a filing with the Bombay Stock Exchange in early November last.

Praveen Someshwar, Managing Director & CEO of USL, had said: "RCSPL has been a valuable and strategic asset for USL, however it's non-core to our alcobev business. This step reinforces USL's & Diageo's commitment to continue reviewing its India enterprise portfolio to enable sustained delivery of long-term value to all its stakeholders, while keeping RCSPL's best interest in mind."

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